

FORENSIC REPORT: THE MYSTERY OF THE LOCKED ROOM

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Case Reference: FR-0471



Picture taken

1. Background

At 7:45 a.m. on March 28, officers were called to the Riverside Guest House, a quiet building on the edge of town overlooking the river. The caretaker reported that room 204, rented by a journalist named Daniel Moore, had been locked from the inside all night. No one had seen Moore since the previous evening. The room's key was still in the lock, the security chain fastened, and no window or door appeared disturbed. Yet the occupant was missing. His shoes, wallet, and passport were on the table beside an open notebook. The room's silence, the caretaker said, "felt heavy, like someone was still inside."

2. Scene Description

The room was dim, with curtains half drawn and the faint smell of burnt dust from the old heater. A glass of water stood near the bed, untouched except for one fingerprint. The mirror above the desk had a single fingerprint at its center, but no smudges around it. A chair was slightly out of place, its back turned toward the window as if recently used. The window itself was closed and locked, yet cold air leaked through a thin crack in the frame. On the inside sill, officers found a faint black residue; later confirmed to be candle soot. The digital clock beside the bed had stopped at 2:17 a.m., its power cord severed.

3. Evidence Collected

Investigators recovered:

1. A notebook with pages torn out, the remaining ones covered in half-finished sentences and strange symbols resembling shorthand.
2. A burned candle stub, found in the drawer with no matches nearby.
3. A wire, about 20 cm long, bent at the tip.
4. A USB drive, concealed inside the battery compartment of a remote control.
5. A handwritten note, folded under the pillow. It read only: *“It comes at 2:17.”*

Forensic tests found no foreign fingerprints, no trace of blood, and no sign of forced entry. The handwriting on the note matched Moore’s. The notebook’s symbols remain undeciphered.

4. Witness Statements

The caretaker, an elderly man named Frank Dent, said he saw the light under the door flicker shortly after 2 a.m. “I thought he was writing,” Dent said, “but then it went dark—just like that.” Two guests in adjacent rooms reported faint metallic sounds, “like something dragging,” followed by silence. The security cameras in the hall recorded only static between 2:00 and 2:20 a.m. Maintenance staff later confirmed that no other rooms experienced power failure. The front door was locked, and no one entered or left the building until morning.

5. Analysis

Investigators consider several possibilities. The soot and burnt candle indicate the victim may have performed an experiment or ritual before disappearing. The note’s timing matches the stopped clock and power loss, suggesting deliberate synchronization. The bent wire could have been used to secure the window latch from outside, creating the illusion that the room was sealed. Yet, the absence of external marks challenges this theory. Experts also noted that Moore’s articles before his disappearance focused on state surveillance, coded communication, and disappearances connected to whistleblowers. His last online post, made at 2:14 a.m., simply read: *“Some doors don’t open outward.”*

6. Conclusion

The incident remains unsolved. No trace of Moore has been found. Digital forensics are ongoing, but the USB drive contained only corrupted files that repeat the same phrase: *“No signal.”* The case is suspended pending new evidence. Room 204 remains sealed for further examination.

End of Report