

The Case of the Falling Lee



It is a brutally cold day. You get to the office building of wealthy stockbroker Martin Lee just as the ambulance is pulling away. Lee's body landed on the sidewalk after falling from a window eight floors up.

His office is in a turmoil – two girls in a corner of the outer office crying hysterically, three men pacing back and forth. One of the men says, "I'm Alex, a junior partner here. We were all in the outer office when we heard him scream. I rushed into Mr Lee's office, but it was too late! That man over there, Bill, was with Mr Lee and saw him jump.

Bill walks over to you. "I was an employee here, until a year ago, when Mr Lee and I had a little disagreement. I dropped in today to see if there was a chance of my coming back to work here."

"What happened?" you ask.

"Well, he started to walk around the office. He seemed worried about something. Just as he got near the open window, he turned toward it. Then – I don't know if he jumped or lost his balance!" He shakes his head.



You step into Lee's office with Alex. The room is uncomfortably warm, because of two electric heaters in the corners. Alex comments, "Mr Lee was not a healthy man, and he always complained of cold. He kept his office in here like an oven. And he resented anyone's suggestion of ventilation or fresh air."

“Mr Lee neither committed suicide nor had an accident,” you say to Alex. “I’ll have to ask Bill some more questions!”

Why do you suspect Bill?