



# mini crimes

## The Strange Cup

### Solution

#### 1. How did the theft of the cup happen?

First of all, **Alfonso Camerini** had a copy of the cup made. During one of the cleaning days of the cup he entered the office hiding the copy in the large bag of his cart and, after the president opened the display case for him, knowing that she smoked, he waited for her to go out and smoke in order to do the exchange, hiding the real cup in the bag and covering it with garbage, so that he could take it away without arousing any suspicions: no one would find it strange to see him with garbage bags in his hands. A few weeks later, when he had by then sold the cup, he pretended to notice that it was a fake and alerted the president. In this way, he thought he could deflect suspicion away from himself and onto the captain, whom he knew to be on bad terms with the president.

#### 2. What was the motive for the theft?

He discovered that sports memorabilia had a rich market and stole it to resell it to a collector for a big sum.

#### 3. In addition to the culprit, another character is also hiding a secret: what?

The team captain is hiding an injury by taking a strong painkiller during practices and matches, because if word got out, he would miss out on the offer which he received that would allow him to move to a better team.

### The whole story

Alfonso Camerini, realising that the cup could be sold for a large sum to a collector, had a copy made by a craftsman, being careful to remain anonymous. Obviously, he could not show up in the president's office with a fake cup in his hands, but fortunately the bag in his cart was large enough to hide it, and he knew that the president had a major smoking problem which caused her to leave the office very often to smoke (as the captain had complained about and as could be deduced from the smoking ban and the lack of ashtrays), which would give him time to make the replacement undisturbed.

A few weeks ago he put his plan into action and, as soon as she went outside to smoke, he made the switch by putting the real cup in the garbage bag in the cart, covering it with the paper wrappers from the bin, so as to take it undisturbed not only out of the office but also out of the headquarters, confident that no one would find it strange to see him carrying a garbage bag outside.

Then he waited a few weeks so he could find a buyer and only after selling the incriminating cup, he pretended to discover that the copy was a fake, both to convince everyone that the theft was a recent thing and to divert suspicion from himself. He also slipped the blacksmith's business card through the crack in the door of the captain's locker (which is why it was on top of everything else) so that suspicion would fall on the captain, aware of the strong friction he currently had with the president.

President Silvia Giammetta, on her part, was really doing her best to keep the team afloat, even though it seemed a hopeless task now, to the point of convincing herself, because she obviously was very superstitious, that the cup was bad luck. This is why she had even scheduled an appointment at the headquarters with a magician to exorcise it. The theft made her panic, because among the many things she had had to cut off, there was also the renewal of the insurance policy, which, as she verified before the arrival of the police, had expired a few weeks before.

Captain Ivan Bolzoni, on the other hand, had been in the middle of negotiations over the last few weeks to move to a better team, but he had unfortunately suffered an injury some weeks earlier, something he had to keep hidden at all costs to prevent himself from blowing the deal with the other team. This is why he paid Alfonso Camerini to secretly buy him painkillers, so that he could hide the injury during training and games.

### Trivia

Contrary to popular belief, soccer balls are actually not perfectly round, although they are much more so than the earliest balls, which were an inflated pig's bladder and therefore decidedly more irregular. In fact, the classic soccer ball is slightly oval in shape and otherwise irregular, but the geometric pattern creates the illusion that it is perfectly spherical instead.

With each World Cup, FIFA launches a new official World Cup ball: in 2010, a newly developed super-technological ball designed by Adidas was made, which was meant to provide greater stability in the air and, due to the lack of panels on the ball and the use of internal sewing, it was the roundest ball ever used. Contrary to what one might think, many soccer players complained that they were confused by the way this ball performed compared to the slightly irregular ones they were used to.

### Credits

GateOnGames Editions

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