

## **'The Theft of the Mona Lisa' video transcription**

**The video starts in the office of a French official of the Third Republic.**

[Narrator]

In 1910, a high-ranking French official declared:

[A minister]

Stealing the *Mona Lisa*? As impossible as stealing the towers of Notre-Dame cathedral!

**In the museum, visitors are shocked to find *Mona Lisa's* frame empty. In town, a paperboy announces the news. Everyone is talking about the theft.**

[Narrator]

But less than a year later, on Tuesday August 22, 1911...the papers were full of this incredible story...it became an affair of state that caused havoc in the Chamber of Deputies and shook the government.

**Policemen rush to Montmartre, arrest Guillaume Apollinaire and take him to prison.**

[Narrator]

The painting was nowhere to be found...certain famous people were suspected, such as the painter Picasso, and the poet Apollinaire who spent 3 days in prison before being proved innocent and set free...

**The head of police loses hope. We see days going by on a calendar.**

[Narrator]

Time passed...weeks turned into months...the investigation was getting nowhere...

**We are now in Florence: we see the cathedral, Palazzo Vecchio and little streets in the city.**

[Narrator]

It wasn't until two years later, in the Italian city of Florence, that something finally happened...

**A man walks into an antique store.**

[Vincenzo Peruggia]

Buon giorno...I have something to show you...Something extraordinary

[Alfredo Geri]

- What is it?

[Vincenzo Peruggia]

- A painting

[Alfredo Geri]

- Can't you bring it here?

[Vincenzo Peruggia]

- Impossible. You'll have to come with me. You won't regret it...

**Alfredo Geri follows Vincenzo Peruggia to his apartment. They go into his room.**

[Narrator]

The mysterious visitor took the antique dealer to his room...

**Vincenzo Geri brings a suitcase out from under his bed and opens it. He lifts out a thin wood panel—we only see it from behind.**

[Vincenzo Peruggia]

- You see, I was telling you the truth...

**In shock, Alfredo Geri looks at the painting.**

[Alfredo Geri]

- I...er...yes, indeed...Hmm...Very interesting. Don't go away, I need time to think.

**Alfredo Geri rushes out the room. Once he is alone, Vincenzo Peruggia jumps around, dances and sings in joy.**

[Vincenzo Peruggia]

- Haha! La vita è bella!

**Someone knocks at the door.**

[Narrator]

And a little later...

[Vincenzo Peruggia]

- Who is it?

[Alfredo Geri]

- It's me, Geri, the antique dealer...

**Vincenzo Peruggia opens the door and sees two policemen with the antique dealer.**

[Policemen]

- You're under arrest

**Vincenzo Peruggia is in court.**

[Narrator]

The thief, Vincenzo Perrugia, was sentenced to prison after a highly publicized trial. This is how he'd carried out his crime:

He'd been given the job of making a display case to protect the Mona Lisa...

**In the museum, we see Vincenzo and an accomplice removing the *Mona Lisa's* display case. A night guard begins his round with a lamp in hand. Vincenzo and his two accomplices hide in a storeroom, already holding the painting, which is wrapped up. The guard passes without noticing them.**

[Narrator]

At closing time on Sunday August 20, 1911,

[Night guard]

- The museum is closing!

[Narrator]

He and 2 accomplices stayed hidden in a storeroom inside the museum.

**Vincenzo and his two accomplices carefully leave the museum.**

[Narrator]

The next day was museum closing day; Perrugia casually took down the painting...and managed to leave the Louvre without being seen...

**In the Grande Galerie of the Louvre, visitors rush to see the *Mona Lisa*, back in her rightful place.**

[Narrator]

On January 4, 1914, the *Mona Lisa* was returned to her place in the Louvre. A magnificent party was held to welcome her home...