



The incident has left Kardashian (in NYC Aug. 28) "traumatized," says a family pal.

**K**im Kardashian would like to forget Paris. Just hours after the 35-year-old was bound, gagged and robbed at gunpoint in husband Kanye West's luxury apartment at the Hôtel de Pourtalès early October 3, she fled to NYC — and to safety. There, she remained holed up with the rapper, 39, and their kids, North, 3, and Saint, 10 months, before heading back to L.A. October 6. "She wants to move past this," says a Kardashian source. "But it's still so fresh. She's shocked." Abroad, investigators are befuddled by the heist, where an estimated \$11 million in jewelry was stolen. *Us* unravels the break-in's biggest mysteries.



Police have yet to find any of the criminals' DNA in the Paris apartment.

Paris police are baffled by the five bandits who stripped **Kardashian** of her jewels **BY JAMIE BLYNN**

# KIM'S ROBBERY

# BURNING QUESTIONS

## How did robbers access the apartment?

Disguised as police officers, the five armed assailants buzzed the intercom, telling a male concierge, "It's urgent — we must see Miss Kardashian," reveals a Paris police source. Once inside, they forced him at gunpoint to unlock the reality star's armored door.

The unnamed employee, who was tied up and left in a hall closet, reportedly confirmed his role in an October 7 letter in French magazine *Closer*: "When you feel the cold steel of a gun at your neck, it is the moment when remaining calm can mean the difference of life or death."

The break-in was no random crime. The five middle-aged French thieves "are experienced criminals," a Paris police official tells *Us*. As such, they likely surveilled their prey, reportedly stalking her as paparazzi; watched her social media posts; and learned just when she would be alone in her flat. They also were likely aware that the Rue Tronchet building had no security cameras inside because, a source says of the nine-apartment building, "The high-end clients do not want to be filmed."

## How did Kardashian break free?

Moments after the robbery, the *E!* star — held captive in her suite's bathtub — was able to remove the zip ties that bound her hands and feet. Though used by police stateside, the plastic



Bodyguard Pascal Duvier (in Paris Oct. 2) was with other family the night of the robbery.

**"KIM HAS HIRED A SECURITY TEAM WITH EX-SECRET SERVICE AND CIA AGENTS," SAYS A SOURCE. "SHE WANTS THE BEST."**

restraints are not fool-proof. "They were likely loose enough to wriggle out of," explains L.A.-based self-defense expert Jennifer Cassetta. "Kim has small hands and was likely able to slip them off."

## Will the police catch the criminals?

They have a few leads, but nothing concrete — yet. The Parisian police official explains that the crooks used a "double-bluff escape ruse" to confuse cops. "They wanted us to believe they were amateurs," says the source, "when all clues point to them being sophisticated professionals." Riding off on rented bikes, the official says, one robber deliberately fell, while another dropped a stolen gem later found by a local office worker. Worth a reported \$33,180, the diamond cross "was of low value compared to the other pieces in the haul" (including her 20-carat Lorraine Schwartz

diamond ring estimated at \$4.5 million), says the official. "It was all done for the cameras that might be in the area." The source suspects, they actually fled in a waiting van.

## Why did skeptics say the robbery was faked?

As more details of the heist emerged, so did conspiracy theories. When French news reported that the robbers did not even know who Kardashian was, Bethenny Frankel quipped the story just didn't add up, tweeting: "I guess they don't have tv or the internet in Paris." Meanwhile Florida radio host Geoff Moore tweeted that the "hoax" was set up "for attention from the press."

After all, Kardashian has been living her — often staged — life out for the cameras since 2007. Her sex tape with Ray J — possibly leaked by her own camp — shot her into superstardom. And in 2011, her 72-day marriage

to Kris Humphries was a ratings boost for *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*. But *E!* insists the incident is very real. In fact, their cameras were nowhere near the scene of the crime — and are turned off indefinitely. "Kim's well-being is our core focus right now," the network said in an October 6 statement. (A separate source claims the show has resumed filming.)

## Will the incident change Kardashian?

Snap happy no more: Tellingly, the mogul, known for documenting her every move (and curve), has remained offline since October 2. ("It's Personal Safety 101," says Cassetta. "Never post your location. Don't flaunt jewelry.") Moving forward, however, she'll reassess her online image. "Part of her brand is sharing her life on social media," says a family pal. "She hasn't said she won't be sharing luxurious bits of her life, but she certainly doesn't want to become more of a target." **US**



Kardashian flaunted the 20-carat ring in a Sept. 29 Instagram.