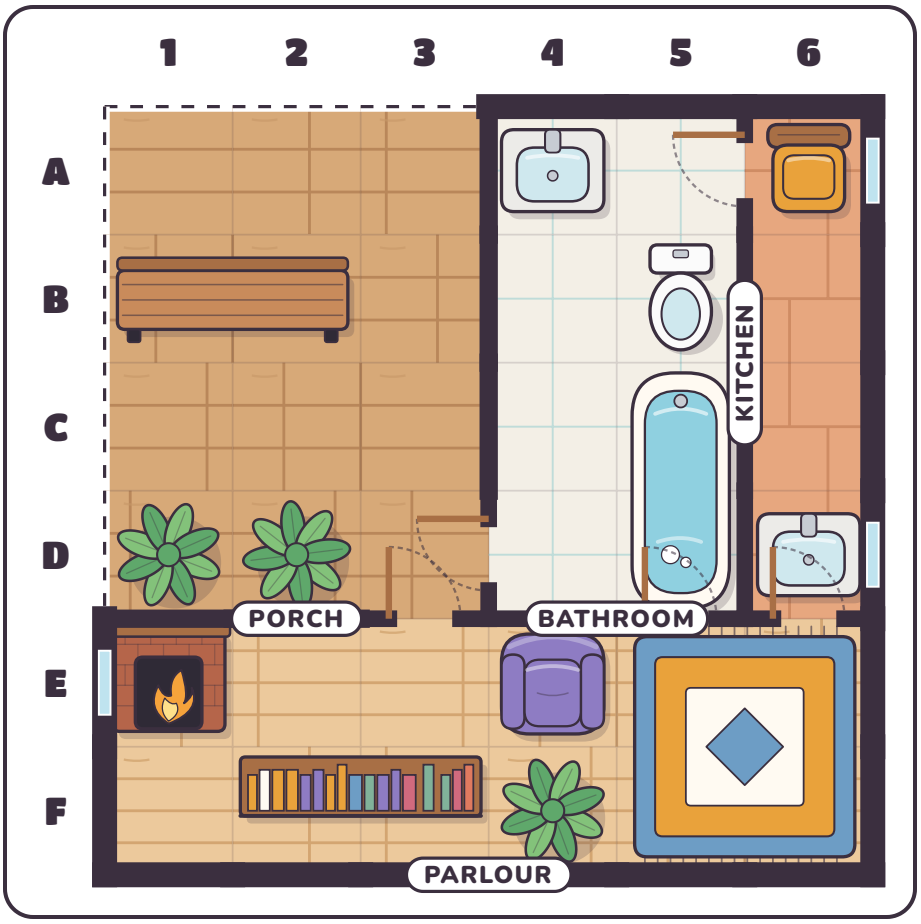
A Body in the Cottage

The doors were locked at eight. By half past, **Olive** was dead — so the killer is still inside.



What the witnesses say



Quinn the detective's cousin
"There was a bookshelf in her row. She was beside a plant."



Milo the student
"There was a plant in his row."



Hazel the antique dealer
"She was beside the fireplace."



Rufus the fisherman
"There was a bookshelf in his column. There was a sink in his row."



Yara the doctor
"She was beside a sink."



Olive the victim
Found dead — alone in a room with the killer.

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · armchair · bench · rug · bathtub

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

plant · bookshelf · fireplace · sink · toilet

The rules

1. Exactly one person in every row and every column.
2. Nobody stands on solid furniture.
3. Every statement is true. "Beside" = the square directly next to it; north is up.
4. The victim was alone in a room with exactly one other person: the killer.

Your verdict

The killer was _____

in the _____

Solved in _____

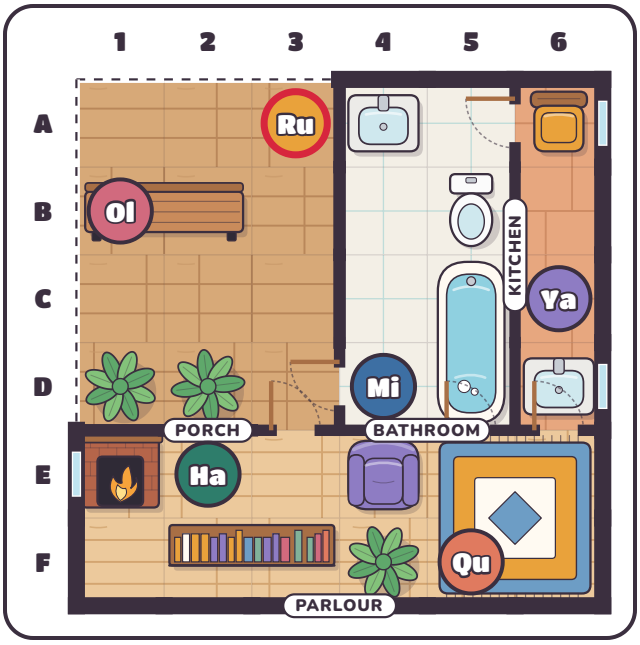
Notes

Answer and step-by-step solution: on the next page.

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Solution: A Body in the Cottage



THE KILLER

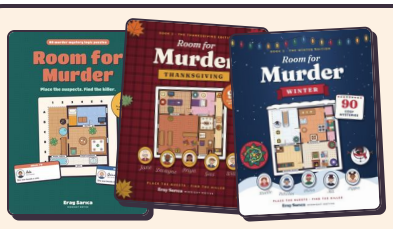
Rufus, the fisherman

The only other person in the Porch with Olive.

Quinn F5 · Milo D4 · Hazel E2 · Rufus A3 · Yara C6 · Olive B1

How to solve it, step by step

1. Quinn: “There was a bookshelf in her row. She was beside a plant.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: F5.
2. Hazel: “She was beside the fireplace.” Of the squares that fit, only E2 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
3. Column 1 still needs someone, and only Olive can still stand in it — so Olive is somewhere in column 1.
4. Column 6 still needs someone, and Yara is the only one who can still stand in it. In column 6, “She was beside a sink.” fits only C6.
5. Olive, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: B1, in the Porch.
6. Row A still needs someone, and Rufus is the only one who can still stand in it. In row A, “There was a bookshelf in his column. There was a sink in his row.” fits only A3.
7. Milo: “There was a plant in his row.” Of the squares that fit, only D4 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Everyone is placed. Olive lies in the Porch, and the only other person in there is Rufus. Rufus is the killer.



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