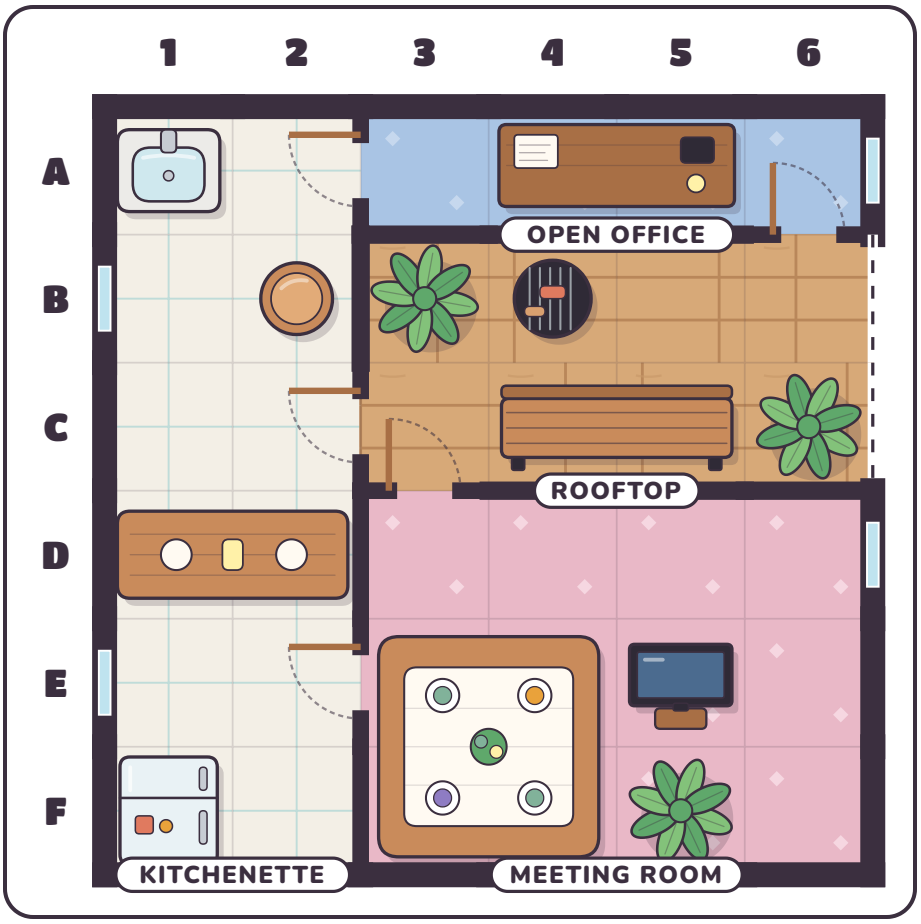
Nobody Leaves the Office

The lights went out at nine. When they came back on, **Otto** was dead.



What the witnesses say



Olive the mayor
"She was beside a sink."



Kiki the influencer
"She was beside a plant."



Hugo the hotel manager
"He was beside a desk."



Rufus the fisherman
"He was alone with Nell."



Nell the nurse
"She was beside a plant."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

stool · bench

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · dining table · desk · plant · fridge · sink · TV · grill

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 _____

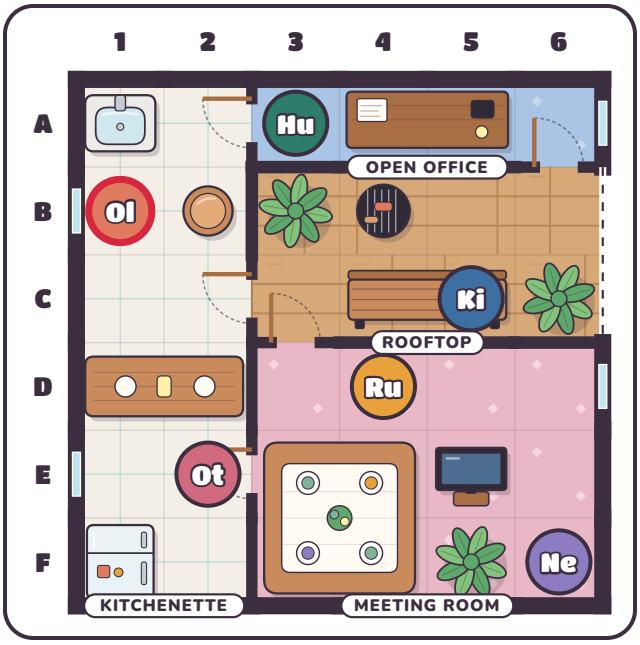
in the _____

Solved in _____

Notes

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

Solution: Nobody Leaves the Office



THE KILLER

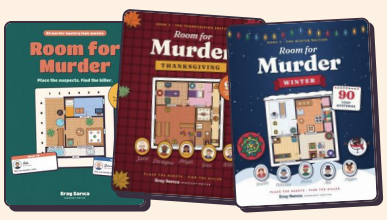
Olive, the mayor

The only other person in the Kitchenette with Otto.

Olive B1 · Kiki C5 · Hugo A3 · Rufus D4 · Nell F6 · Otto E2

How to solve it, step by step

1. Rufus and Nell were alone together, so they share a room — and the only room(s) where both can still stand: Meeting Room and Rooftop.
2. Olive and Hugo can only stand in rows A and B — 2 people for 2 rows, so those rows are theirs and nobody else can use them.
3. Row B still needs someone, and Olive is the only one who can still stand in it. In row B, “She was beside a sink.” fits only B1.
4. Column 2 still needs someone, and only Otto can still stand in it — so Otto is somewhere in column 2.
5. Row D still needs someone, and only Rufus can still stand in it — so Rufus is somewhere in row D.
6. Otto, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: E2, in the Kitchenette.
7. Column 4 still needs someone, and Rufus is the only one who can still stand in it. In column 4, “He was alone with Nell.” fits only D4.
8. Nell: “She was beside a plant.” And Rufus said: “He was alone with Nell.” With Rufus on D4, only F6 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
9. Hugo: “He was beside a desk.” Of the squares that fit, only A3 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
10. Kiki: “She was beside a plant.” Of the squares that fit, only C5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
11. Everyone is placed. Otto lies in the Kitchenette, and the only other person in there is Olive. Olive is the killer.



Enjoyed it? 260+ more cases are waiting.

The **Room for Murder** puzzle books — Maple Bend, Thanksgiving in Cranberry Hollow and a snowed-in Winter in Juniper Falls — as paperbacks on Amazon and printable PDFs on Etsy (Midnight Motive). Every case has one answer you can reach by logic alone.