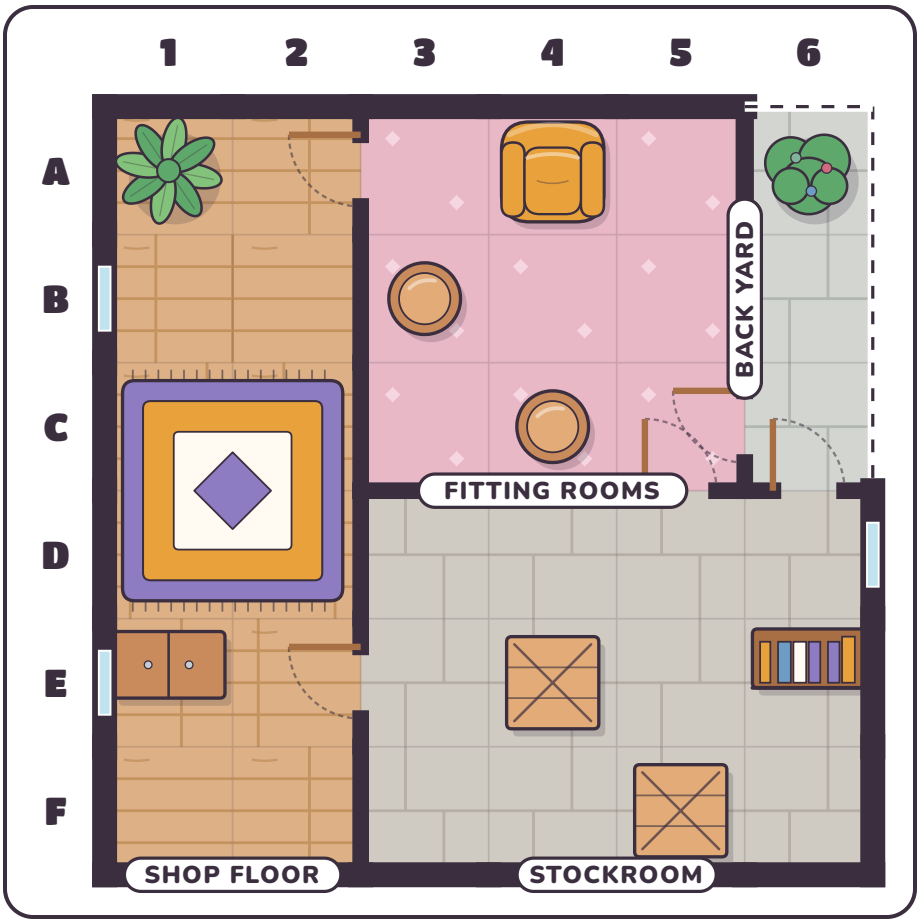
Death at the Boutique

Ada was found face down. Someone in this building knows exactly why.



What the witnesses say



Otto the clockmaker
"He was in the Back Yard."



Quinn the detective's cousin
"She was beside a bookshelf."



Hugo the hotel manager
"He was beside a plant. There was a wardrobe in his column."



Dev the postman
"He was beside a crate. There was a crate in his row."



Felix the magician
"He was in the Stockroom."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

armchair · stool · rug

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

plant · bookshelf · wardrobe · bush · crate

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 _____

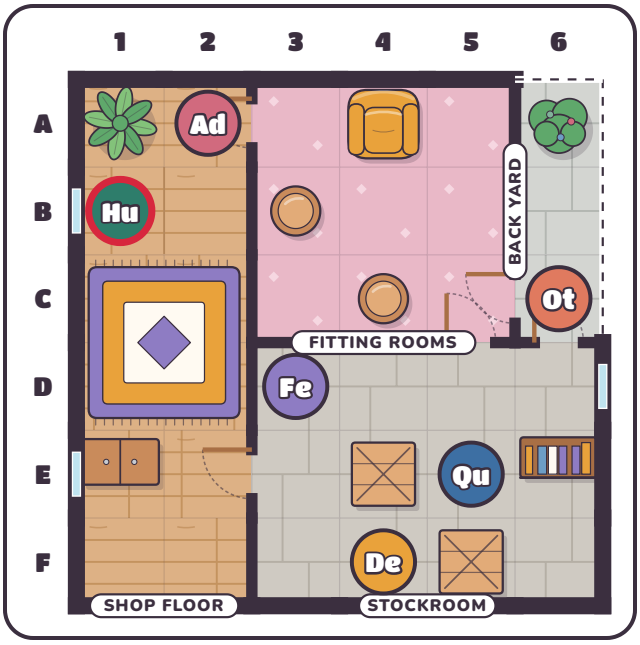
in the _____

Solved in _____

Notes

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

Solution: Death at the Boutique



THE KILLER

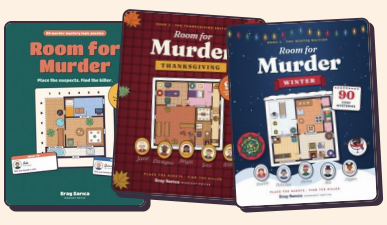
Hugo, the hotel manager

The only other person in the Shop Floor with Ada.

Otto C6 · Quinn E5 · Hugo B1 · Dev F4 · Felix D3 · Ada A2

How to solve it, step by step

1. Hugo: “He was beside a plant. There was a wardrobe in his column.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: B1.
2. Otto: “He was in the Back Yard.” Of the squares that fit, only C6 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
3. Quinn: “She was beside a bookshelf.” Of the squares that fit, only E5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
4. Dev: “He was beside a crate. There was a crate in his row.” Of the squares that fit, only F4 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. Felix: “He was in the Stockroom.” Of the squares that fit, only D3 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Ada, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: A2, in the Shop Floor.
7. Everyone is placed. Ada lies in the Shop Floor, and the only other person in there is Hugo. Hugo 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.