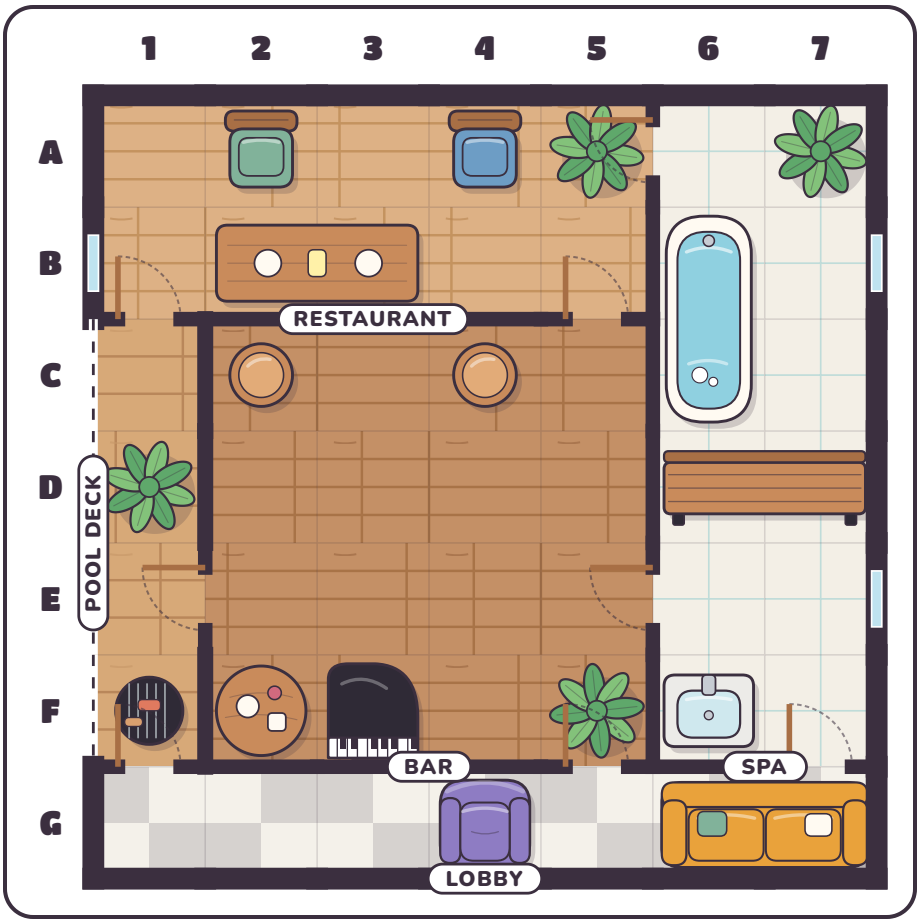
Death at the Grand Hotel

Nobody saw anything. Nobody heard anything. **Rufus** still ended up dead.



What the witnesses say



Percy the butler
"He was diagonally next to Olive. There was a plant in his column."



Vince the car dealer
"He was beside a chair."



Olive the mayor
"She was exactly one row north of Theo."



Felix the magician
"He was beside a stool."



Theo the teacher
"He was beside an armchair."



Yara the doctor
"She was beside a bench. She was not beside the bathtub."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · armchair · stool · sofa · bench · bathtub

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · plant · piano · sink · 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 _____

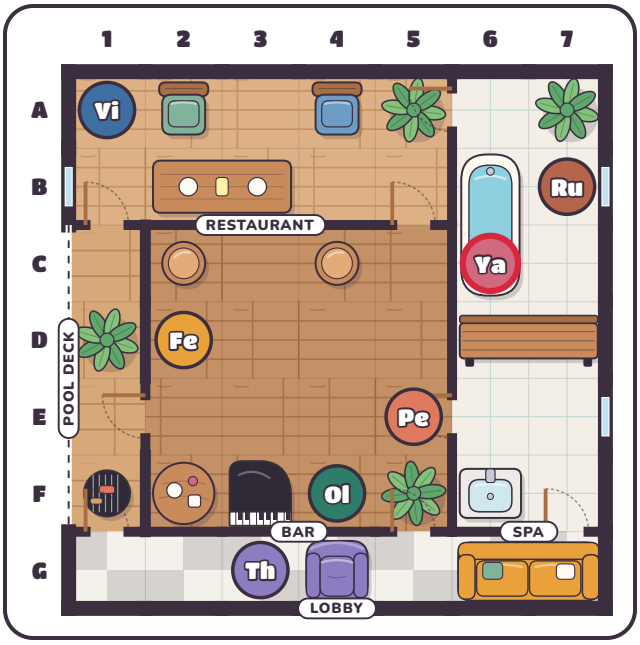
Notes

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

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Solution: Death at the Grand Hotel



THE KILLER

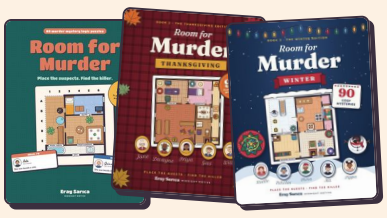
Yara, the doctor

The only other person in the Spa with Rufus.

Percy E5 · Vince A1 · Olive F4 · Felix D2 · Theo G3 · Yara C6 · Rufus B7

How to solve it, step by step

1. Every square left for Theo is in row G, so row G is Theo's — nobody else can be in row G.
2. Read Percy's statement — "He was diagonally next to Olive." — against where Olive can still be: Percy is down to 12 squares; Olive is down to 14 squares.
3. Read Olive's statement — "She was exactly one row north of Theo." — against where Theo can still be: Olive can only be on F4.
4. Olive: "She was exactly one row north of Theo." Of the squares that fit, only F4 is still open — the rest are ruled out above.
5. Percy: "He was diagonally next to Olive. There was a plant in his column." With Olive on F4, only E5 still fits — the rest are ruled out above.
6. Yara: "She was beside a bench. She was not beside the bathtub." Of the squares that fit, only C6 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Felix: "He was beside a stool." Of the squares that fit, only D2 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Theo: "He was beside an armchair." And Olive said: "She was exactly one row north of Theo." With Olive on F4, only G3 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
9. Vince: "He was beside a chair." Of the squares that fit, only A1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
10. Rufus, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: B7, in the Spa.
11. Everyone is placed. Rufus lies in the Spa, and the only other person in there is Yara. Yara is the killer.



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