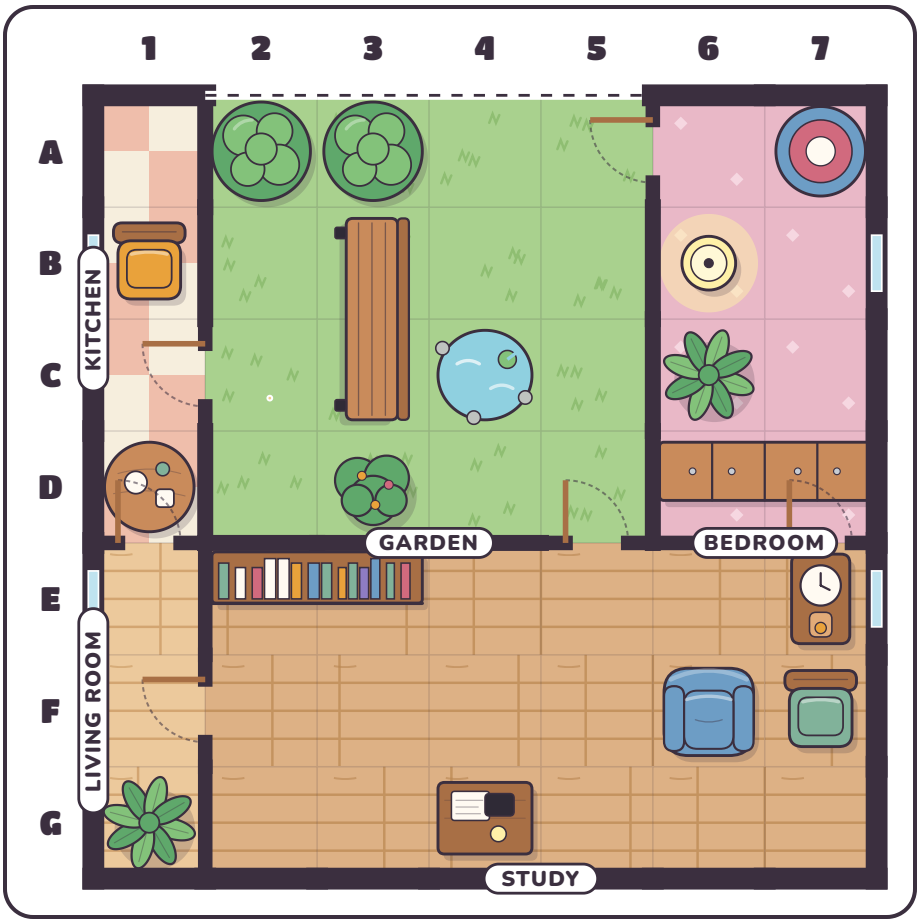
A Body in the Old House

A storm, a power cut and one less guest: poor **Emmett**.



What the witnesses say



Nico the barista
"He was beside a plant."



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



Zeke the farmer
"He was diagonally next to Cyrus."



Otto the clockmaker
"He was sitting in an armchair."



Cyrus the banker
"He was diagonally next to Otto."



Uma the architect
"She was beside a chair."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · armchair · bench · rug

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · desk · plant · bookshelf · lamp · wardrobe · tree · bush · pond · grandfather clock

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 _____

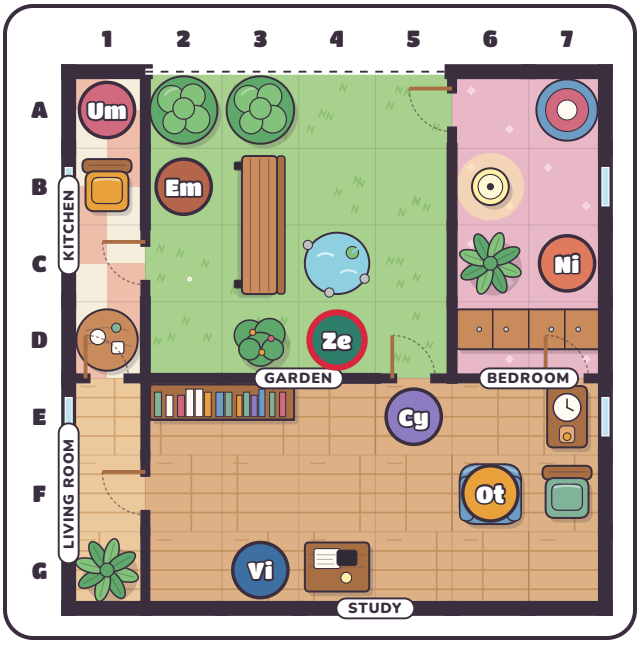
Notes

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

roomformurder.com · a new free case every day

Scan for today's case

Solution: A Body in the Old House



THE KILLER

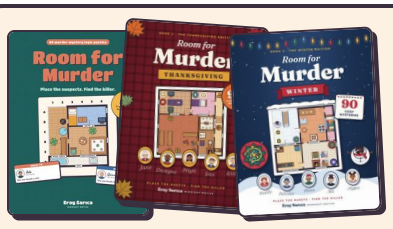
Zeke, the farmer

The only other person in the Garden with Emmett.

Nico C7 · Vince G3 · Zeke D4 · Otto F6 · Cyrus E5
Uma A1 · Emmett B2

How to solve it, step by step

1. Otto: “He was sitting in an armchair.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: F6.
2. Nico: “He was beside a plant.” Of the squares that fit, only C7 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
3. Uma: “She was beside a chair.” Of the squares that fit, only A1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
4. Every square left for Vince is in row G, so row G is Vince's — nobody else can be in row G.
5. Cyrus: “He was diagonally next to Otto.” With Otto on F6, only E5 still fits — the rest are ruled out above.
6. Vince: “He was beside a desk.” Of the squares that fit, only G3 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Zeke: “He was diagonally next to Cyrus.” With Cyrus on E5, only D4 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Emmett, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: B2, in the Garden.
9. Everyone is placed. Emmett lies in the Garden, and the only other person in there is Zeke. Zeke 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.