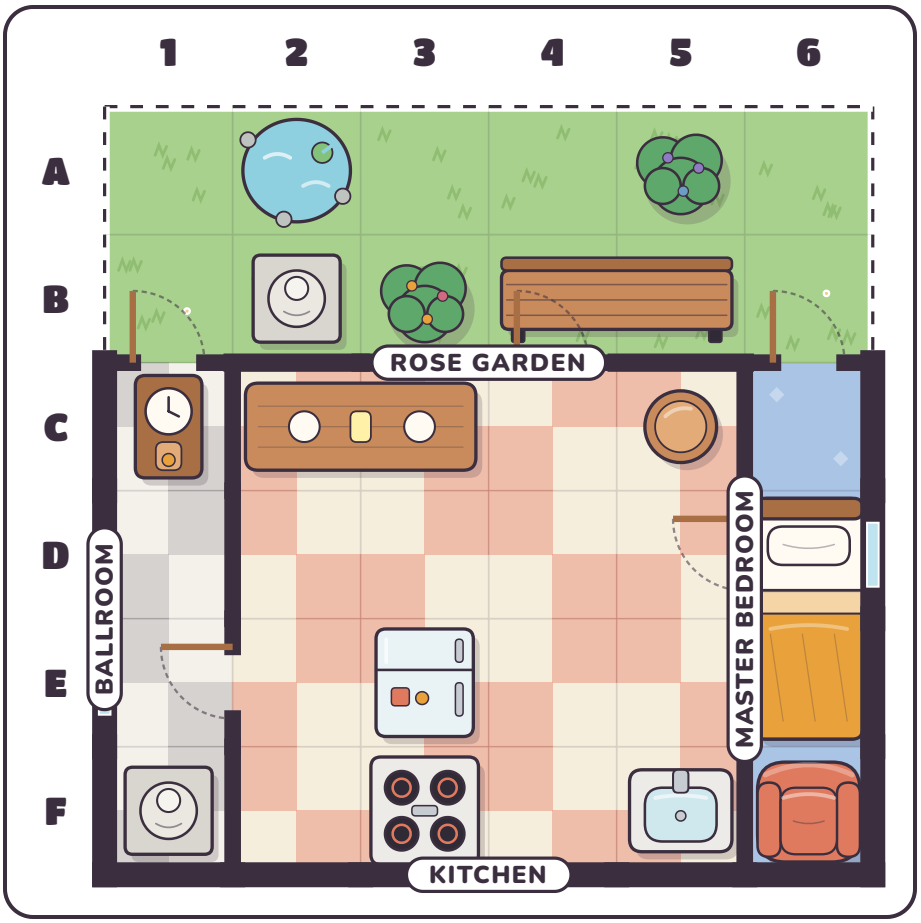
A Body in the Mansion

Someone swapped **Fern**'s drink. Everyone swears it wasn't them.

Sunday special: one suspect is lying — the killer. Everyone else tells the truth.



What the witnesses say



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



Lola the actress
"She was beside the stove."



Vince the car dealer
"He was beside the grandfather clock."



Zeke the farmer
"He was beside the pond."



Rufus the fisherman
"He was beside a sink."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

armchair · stool · bench · bed

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · stove · fridge · sink · bush · pond · statue · 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 — except the killer's. "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 _____

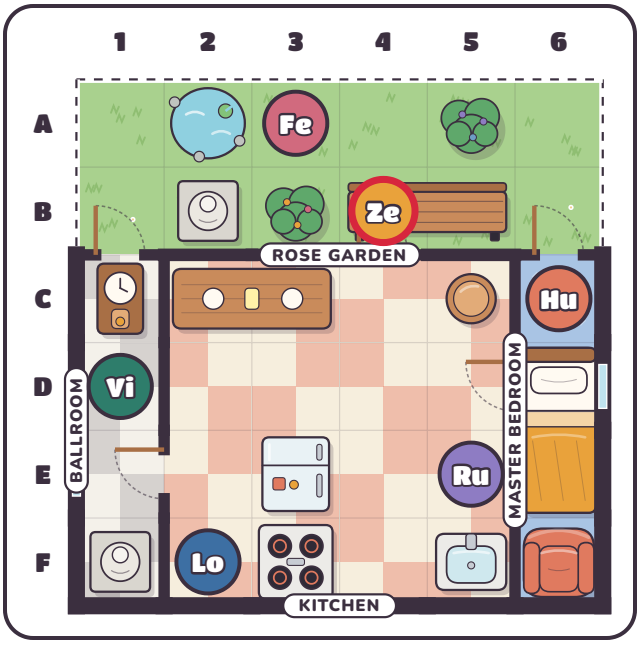
in the _____

Solved in _____

Notes

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

Solution: A Body in the Mansion



THE KILLER

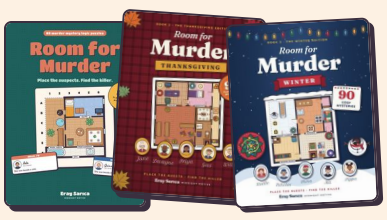
Zeke, the farmer

The only other person in the Rose Garden with Fern — and the suspect whose statement was false.

Hugo C6 · Lola F2 · Vince D1 · Zeke B4 · Rufus E5 · Fern A3

How to solve it, step by step

1. **Sunday rule: exactly one statement is false — the killer's. Try each suspect as the liar in turn: every choice but one runs into a contradiction. Only Zeke works, so Zeke's statement is the lie and the truth is the opposite: "He was not beside the pond."**
2. Vince: "He was beside the grandfather clock." Only one square on the whole plan fits: D1.
3. Fern, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: A3, in the Rose Garden.
4. Row B still needs someone, and only Zeke can still stand in it — so Zeke is somewhere in row B.
5. Row C still needs someone, and Hugo is the only one who can still stand in it. In row C, "He was beside a bed." fits only C6.
6. Row E still needs someone, and Rufus is the only one who can still stand in it. In row E, "He was beside a sink." fits only E5.
7. Zeke: "He was not beside the pond." Of the squares that fit, only B4 is still open — the rest are ruled out above.
8. Lola: "She was beside the stove." Of the squares that fit, only F2 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
9. Everyone is placed. Fern lies in the Rose Garden, and the only other person in there is Zeke. Zeke is the killer — and the one who lied.



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