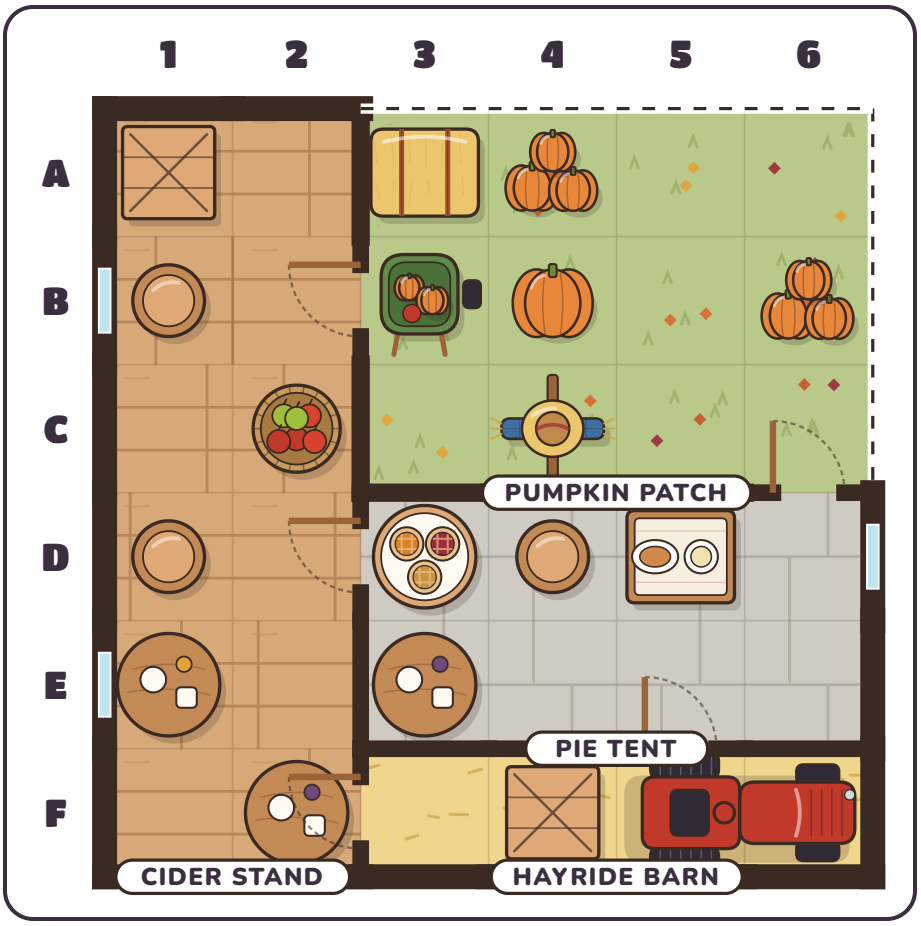
The Harvest Fair Affair

The hayride came back one passenger short: **Maude**.

Set in Cranberry Hollow, the town from the book Room for Murder: Thanksgiving.



What the witnesses say



Hank the volunteer fireman
"He was beside the scarecrow."



Marisol the gravy queen
"She was in a corner of a room."



Dot the crossword champion
"She was beside the buffet table. She was in a corner of a room."



Clyde the retired sheriff
"He was beside a crate."



Bernadette the church organist
"She was in the Hayride Barn."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

stool · hay bale

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · crate · pumpkin · scarecrow · buffet table · pie table · tractor · wheelbarrow · apple basket

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 _____

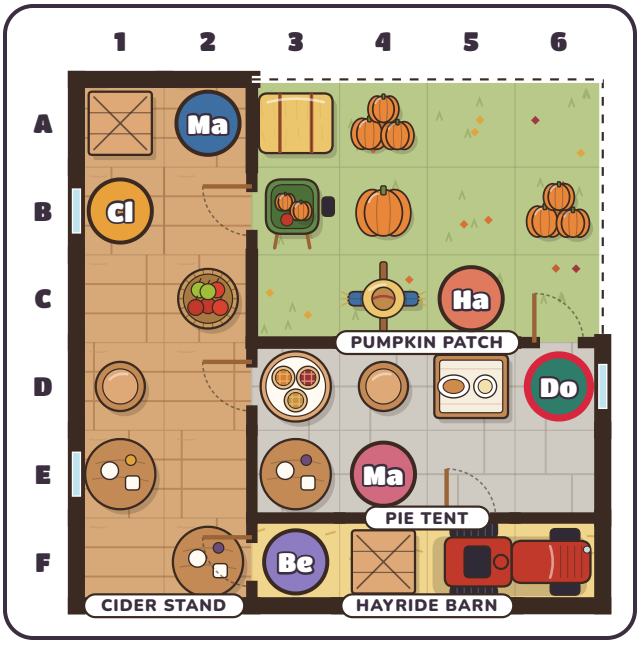
Notes

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

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Solution: The Harvest Fair Affair



THE KILLER

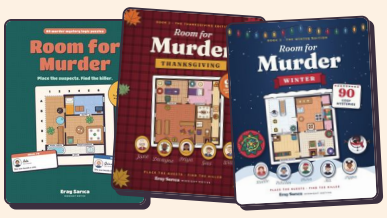
Dot, the crossword champion

The only other person in the Pie Tent with Maude.

Hank C5 · Marisol A2 · Dot D6 · Clyde B1 · Bernadette F3 · Maude E4

How to solve it, step by step

1. Dot: “She was beside the buffet table. She was in a corner of a room.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: D6.
2. Bernadette: “She was in the Hayride Barn.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: F3.
3. Hank: “He was beside the scarecrow.” Of the squares that fit, only C5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
4. Marisol: “She was in a corner of a room.” Of the squares that fit, only A2 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. Clyde: “He was beside a crate.” Of the squares that fit, only B1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Maude, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: E4, in the Pie Tent.
7. Everyone is placed. Maude lies in the Pie Tent, and the only other person in there is Dot. Dot 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.