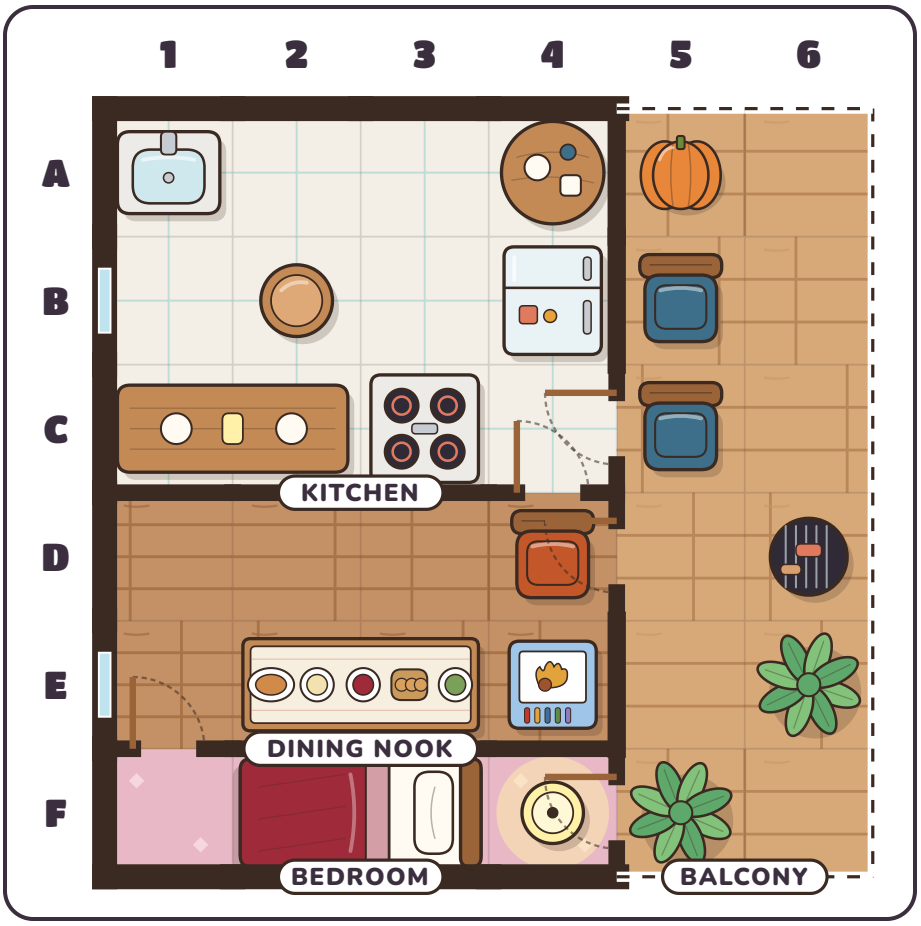
The Friendsgiving Flat Affair

Grandma's secret recipe went missing — and so did **Marcus**'s pulse.

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



What the witnesses say



Victor the real-estate agent
"He was beside the buffet table."



Rosa the sous-chef
"She was beside a pumpkin."



Marisol the gravy queen
"She was beside a lamp."



Opal the quilter
"She was beside the grill."



Jethro the hayride driver
"He was diagonally next to Opal."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · stool · bed

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · plant · lamp
stove · fridge · sink
grill · pumpkin
buffet table · kids' table

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 _____

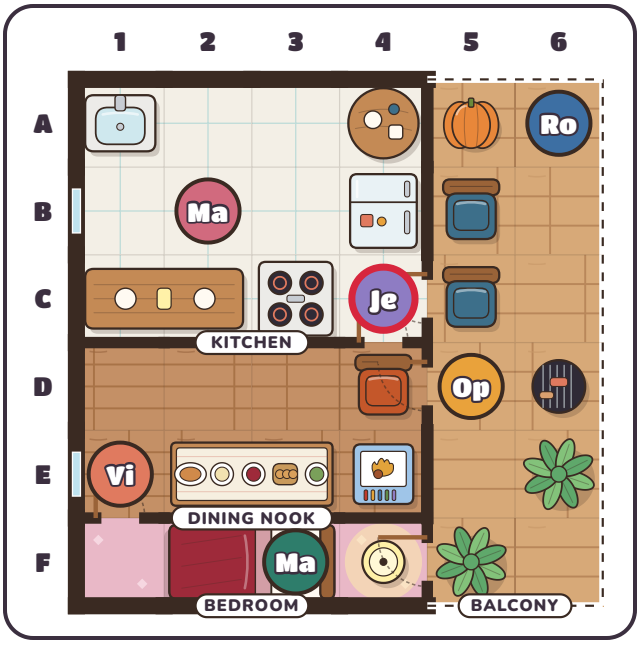
in the _____

Solved in _____

Notes

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

Solution: The Friendsgiving Flat Affair



THE KILLER

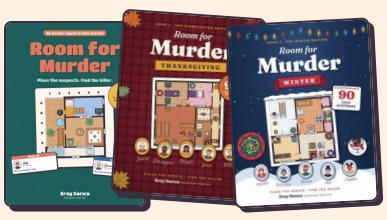
Jethro, the hayride driver

The only other person in the Kitchen with Marcus.

Victor E1 · Rosa A6 · Marisol F3 · Opal D5 · Jethro C4 · Marcus B2

How to solve it, step by step

1. Marisol: “She was beside a lamp.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: F3.
2. Rosa and Opal can only stand in columns 5 and 6 — 2 people for 2 columns, so those columns are theirs and nobody else can use them.
3. Read Jethro's statement — “He was diagonally next to Opal.” — against where Opal can still be: Jethro can only be on C4; Opal can only be on D5.
4. Opal: “She was beside the grill.” Of the squares that fit, only D5 is still open — the rest are ruled out above.
5. Victor: “He was beside the buffet table.” Of the squares that fit, only E1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Rosa: “She was beside a pumpkin.” Of the squares that fit, only A6 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Jethro: “He was diagonally next to Opal.” With Opal on D5, only C4 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Marcus, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: B2, in the Kitchen.
9. Everyone is placed. Marcus lies in the Kitchen, and the only other person in there is Jethro. Jethro 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.