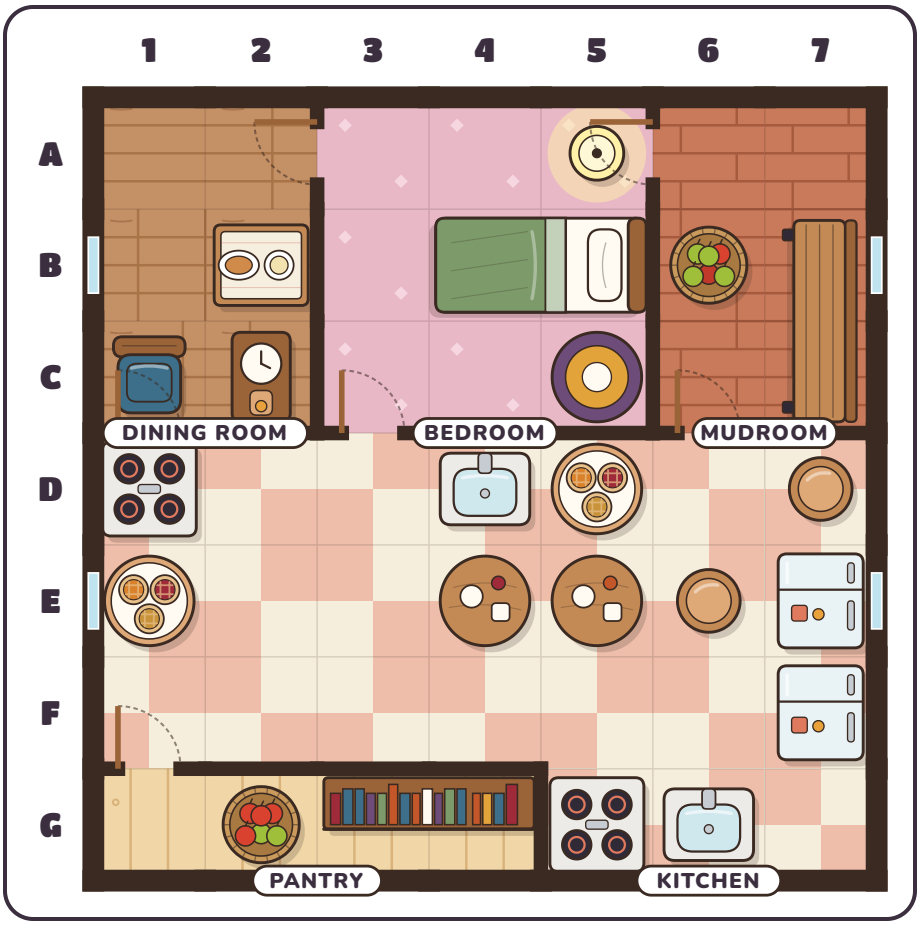
Carving Time at the Farmhouse

Twelve guests, one turkey, and one very unlucky **Lena**.

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



What the witnesses say

Ingrid the innkeeper
"There was a table in her row. She was beside the fridge."

Willa the cranberry grower
"She was in the Pantry."

Ruby the teenager
"She was in the Mudroom. She was not beside any bench."

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

Nadia the vet
"She was beside the stove."

Marcus the pastor
"He was beside a lamp. He was beside a rug."

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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · stool · bench · bed · rug

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · bookshelf · lamp · stove · fridge · sink · grandfather clock · buffet table · pie table · 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 _____

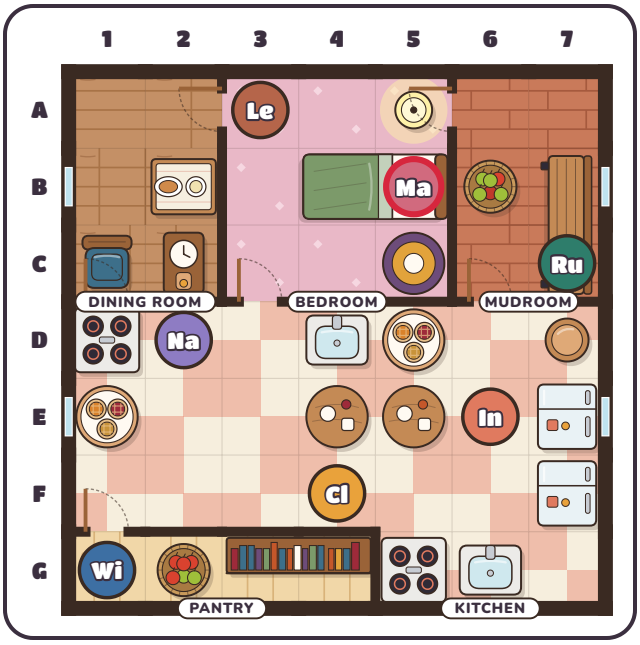
in the _____

Solved in _____

Notes

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

Solution: Carving Time at the Farmhouse



THE KILLER

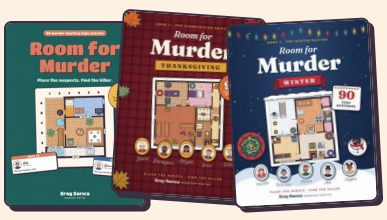
Marcus, the pastor

The only other person in the Bedroom with Lena.

Ingrid E6 · Willa G1 · Ruby C7 · Clyde F4 · Nadia D2
Marcus B5 · Lena A3

How to solve it, step by step

1. Ingrid: “There was a table in her row. She was beside the fridge.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: E6.
2. Willa: “She was in the Pantry.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: G1.
3. Marcus: “He was beside a lamp. He was beside a rug.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: B5.
4. Ruby: “She was in the Mudroom. She was not beside any bench.” Of the squares that fit, only C7 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. Clyde: “He was beside a table.” Of the squares that fit, only F4 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Nadia: “She was beside the stove.” Of the squares that fit, only D2 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Lena, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: A3, in the Bedroom.
8. Everyone is placed. Lena lies in the Bedroom, and the only other person in there is Marcus. Marcus 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.