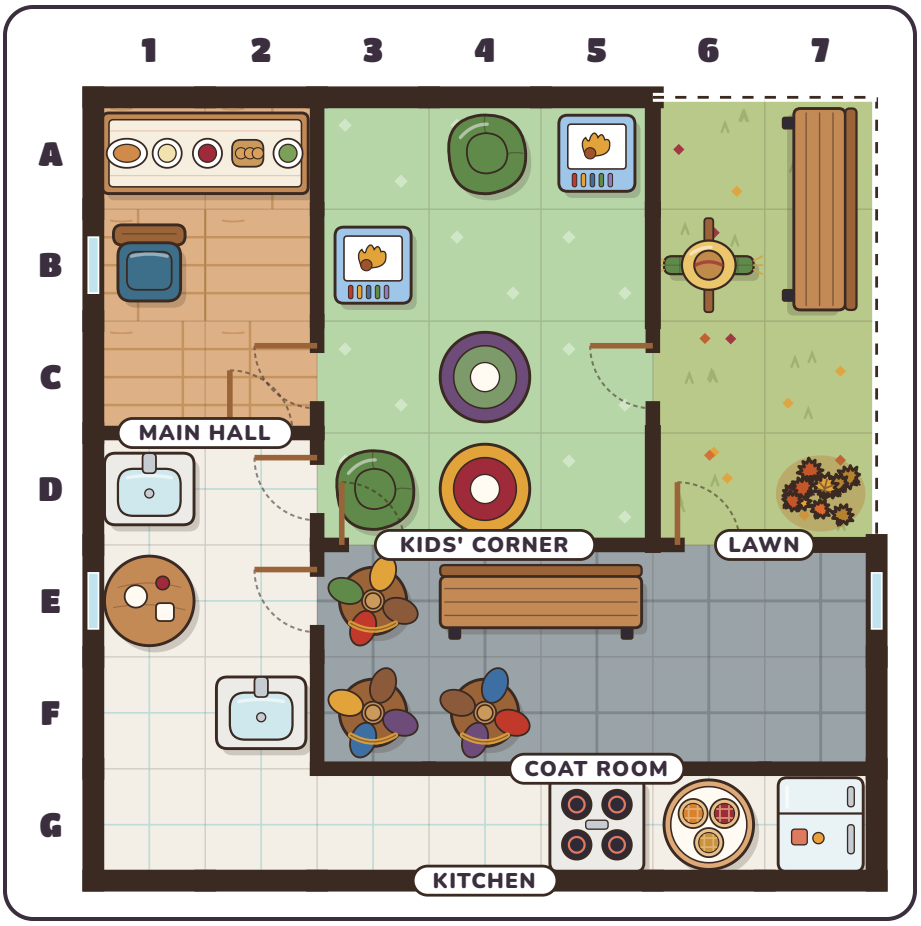
Murder at the Town Hall

Gus called dibs on the last slice of pie. That was a mistake.

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



What the witnesses say



Toby the cousin from the city
"He was in the same room as Clyde."



Marisol the gravy queen
"She was beside the buffet table. She was beside a chair."



Clyde the retired sheriff
"He was in a corner of a room."



Ramon the butcher
"There was the stove in his column."



Silas the beekeeper
"He was beside a bench."



Calvin the dentist
"There was the fridge in his row. There was the kids' table in his column."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · bench · rug · leaf pile · beanbag

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · stove · fridge · sink · scarecrow · buffet table · pie table · kids' table · coat rack

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: Murder at the Town Hall



THE KILLER

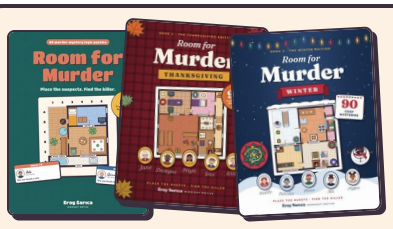
Marisol, the gravy queen

The only other person in the Main Hall with Gus.

Toby E4 · Marisol B2 · Clyde F7 · Ramon D5 · Silas A6 · Calvin G3 · Gus C1

How to solve it, step by step

1. Marisol: “She was beside the buffet table. She was beside a chair.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: B2.
2. Calvin: “There was the fridge in his row. There was the kids' table in his column.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: G3.
3. Every square left for Ramon is in column 5, so column 5 is Ramon's — nobody else can be in column 5.
4. Read Toby's statement — “He was in the same room as Clyde.” — against where Clyde can still be: Toby is down to 9 squares; Clyde is down to 6 squares.
5. Column 1 still needs someone, and only Gus can still stand in it — so Gus is somewhere in column 1.
6. Column 4 still needs someone, and Toby is the only one who can still stand in it. In column 4, “He was in the same room as Clyde.” fits only E4.
7. Clyde: “He was in a corner of a room.” And Toby said: “He was in the same room as Clyde.” With Toby on E4, only F7 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Silas: “He was beside a bench.” Of the squares that fit, only A6 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
9. Gus, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: C1, in the Main Hall.
10. Ramon: “There was the stove in his column.” Of the squares that fit, only D5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
11. Everyone is placed. Gus lies in the Main Hall, and the only other person in there is Marisol. Marisol 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.