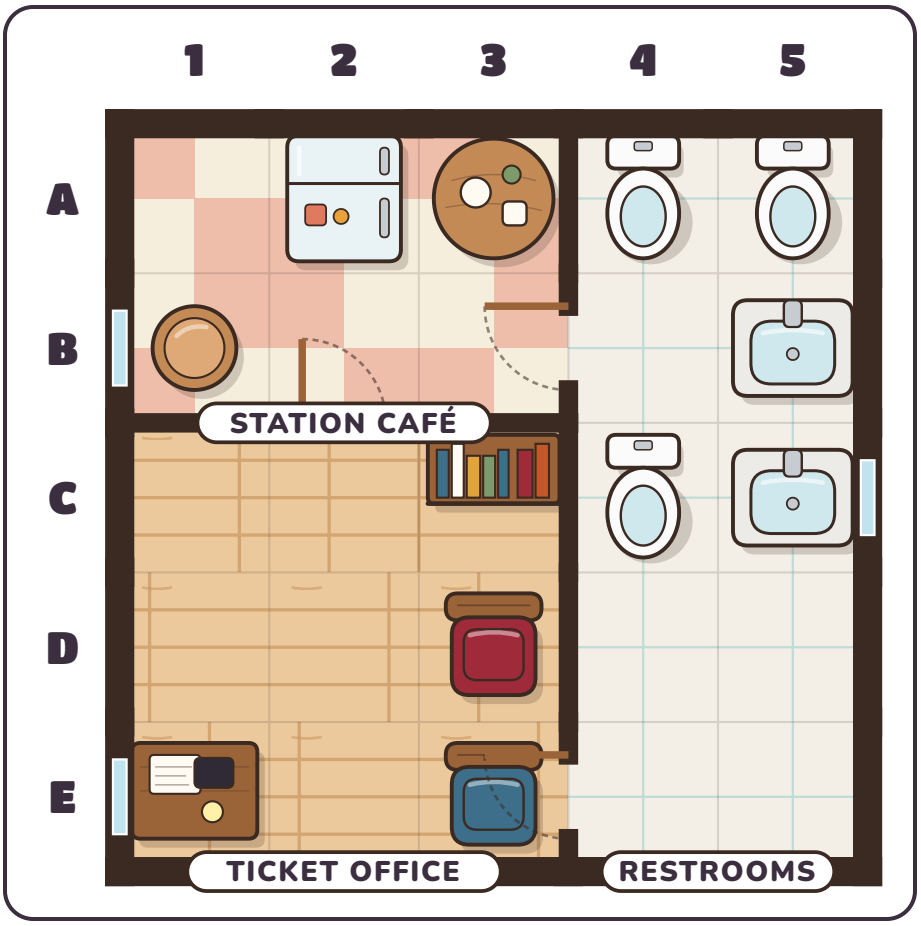
The Train Station Affair

They found **Opal** just before the pumpkin pie. Nobody touched the whipped cream after that.

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



What the witnesses say



Booker the jazz pianist
"He was not beside any chair."



Marcus the pastor
"He was beside the fridge."



Gus the parade marshal
"He was in a corner of a room. He was in the Restrooms."



Ingrid the innkeeper
"She was beside the toilet. She was beside a sink."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · stool

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · desk · bookshelf · fridge · sink · toilet

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 _____

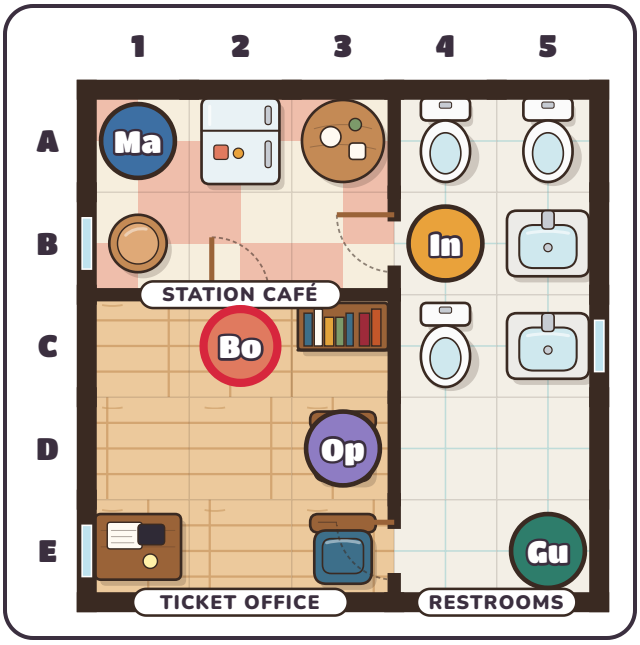
Notes

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

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Solution: The Train Station Affair



THE KILLER

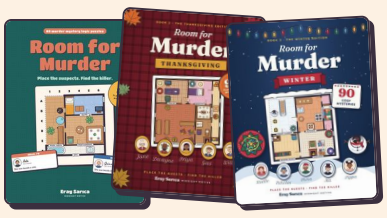
Booker, the jazz pianist

The only other person in the Ticket Office with Opal.

Booker C2 · Marcus A1 · Gus E5 · Ingrid B4 · Opal D3

How to solve it, step by step

1. Ingrid: “She was beside the toilet. She was beside a sink.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: B4.
2. Marcus: “He was beside the fridge.” Of the squares that fit, only A1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
3. Gus: “He was in a corner of a room. He was in the Restrooms.” Of the squares that fit, only E5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
4. Booker: “He was not beside any chair.” Of the squares that fit, only C2 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. Opal, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: D3, in the Ticket Office.
6. Everyone is placed. Opal lies in the Ticket Office, and the only other person in there is Booker. Booker 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.