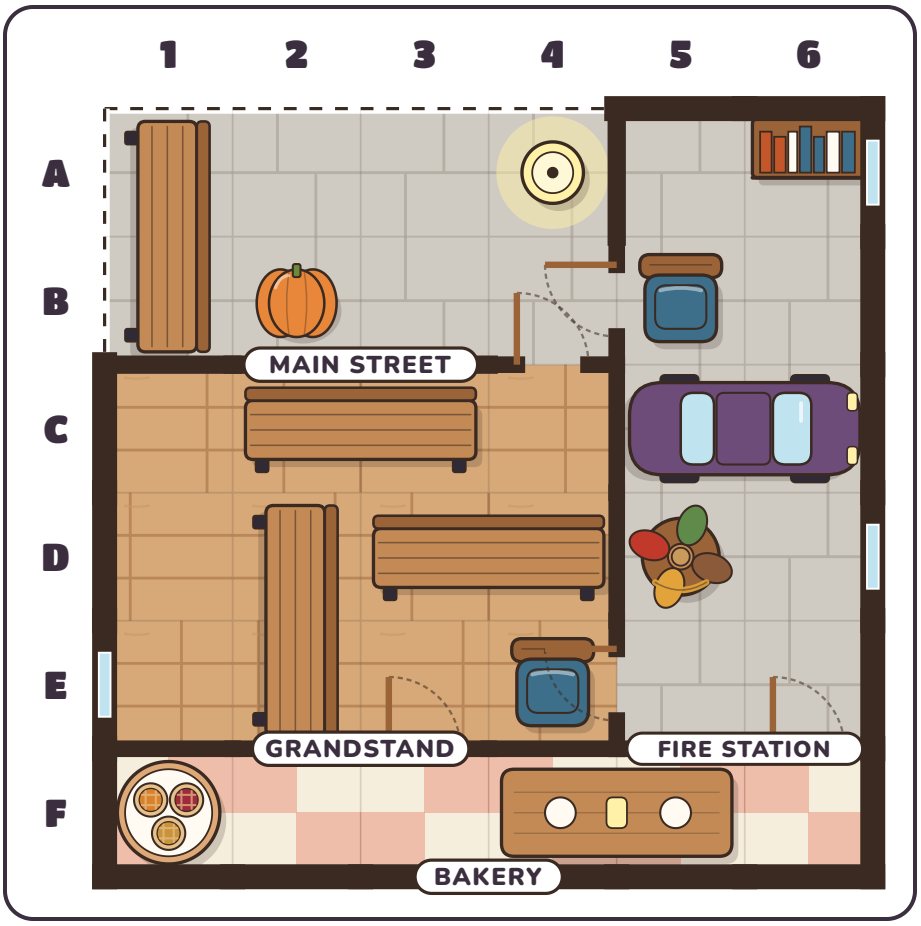
The Parade Affair

Otis brought store-bought pie. Somebody took it very personally.

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



What the witnesses say



Imogen the art teacher
"She was beside the coat rack. She was alone in the room."



Gus the parade marshal
"He was beside a chair."



Bernadette the church organist
"She was beside a table."



Marcus the pastor
"He was alone with Gus."



Walt the football fanatic
"He was not beside any pumpkin. He was in a corner of a room."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · bench

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · bookshelf · lamp · car · pumpkin · pie 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 _____

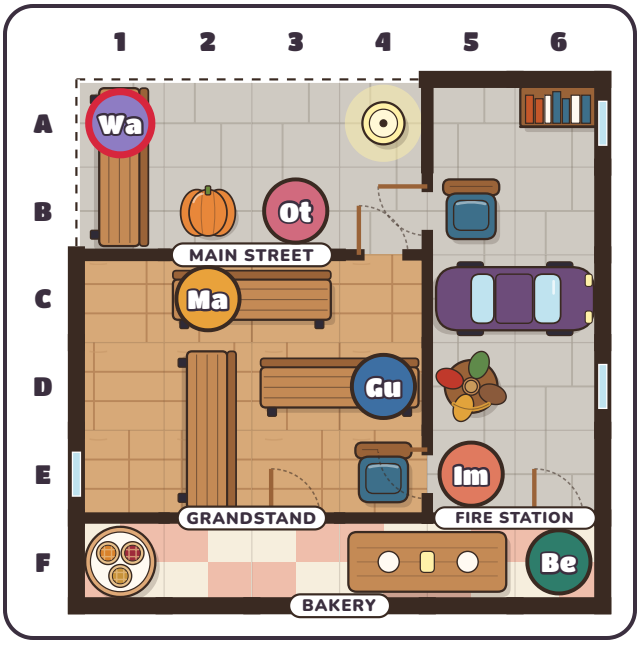
Notes

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

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Solution: The Parade Affair



THE KILLER

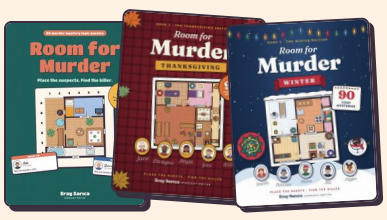
Walt, the football fanatic

The only other person in the Main Street with Otis.

Imogen E5 · Gus D4 · Bernadette F6 · Marcus C2 · Walt A1 · Otis B3

How to solve it, step by step

1. Imogen was alone in the Fire Station, so nobody else stood in the Fire Station.
2. Column 5 still needs someone, and Imogen is the only one who can still stand in it. In column 5, “She was beside the coat rack. She was alone in the room.” fits only E5.
3. Gus: “He was beside a chair.” Of the squares that fit, only D4 is still open — the rest are ruled out above.
4. Row B still needs someone, and only Otis can still stand in it — so Otis is somewhere in row B.
5. Row A still needs someone, and Walt is the only one who can still stand in it. In row A, “He was not beside any pumpkin. He was in a corner of a room.” fits only A1.
6. Otis, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: B3, in the Main Street.
7. Bernadette: “She was beside a table.” Of the squares that fit, only F6 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Marcus: “He was alone with Gus.” With Gus on D4, only C2 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
9. Everyone is placed. Otis lies in the Main Street, and the only other person in there is Walt. Walt is the killer.



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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.