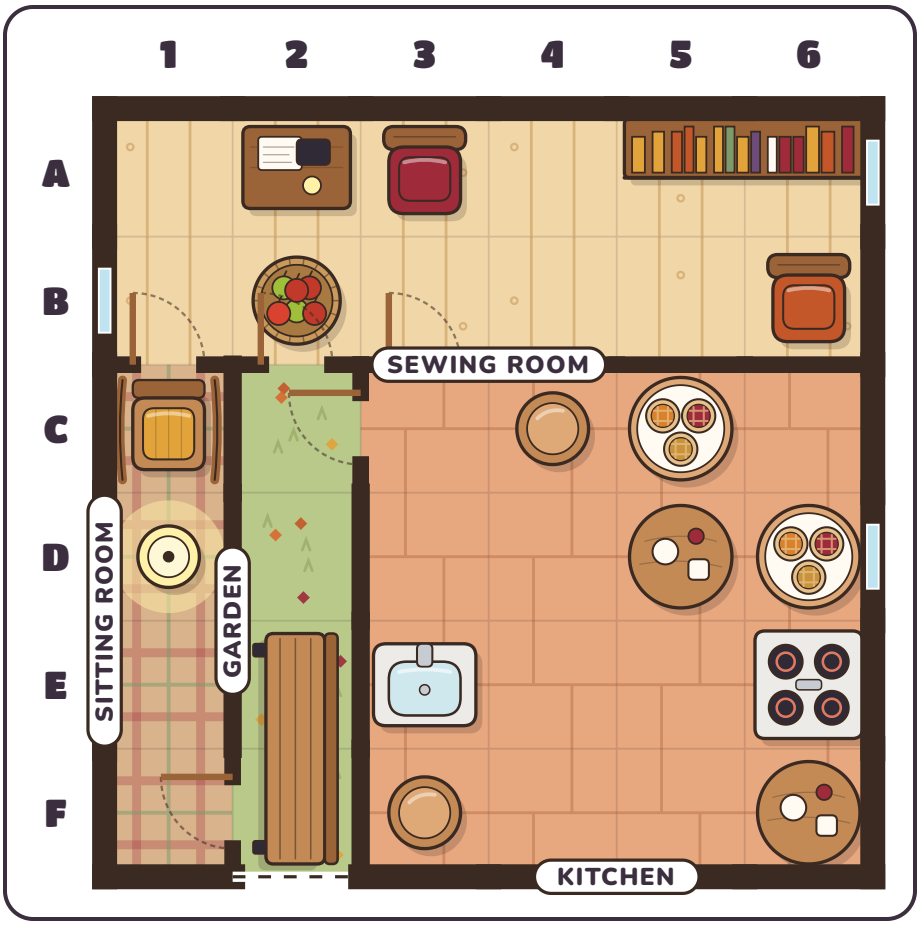
Trouble at the Cottage

Somebody said grace. Somebody else made sure **Gus** never finished dinner.

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



What the witnesses say



Ingrid the innkeeper
"She was beside a bench."



Walt the football fanatic
"He was beside the pie table."



Leroy the barber
"He was beside the stove."



Booker the jazz pianist
"He was beside a sink."



Shirley the lunch lady
"There was the stove in her column."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · stool · bench · rocking chair

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · desk · bookshelf · lamp · stove · sink · 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 _____

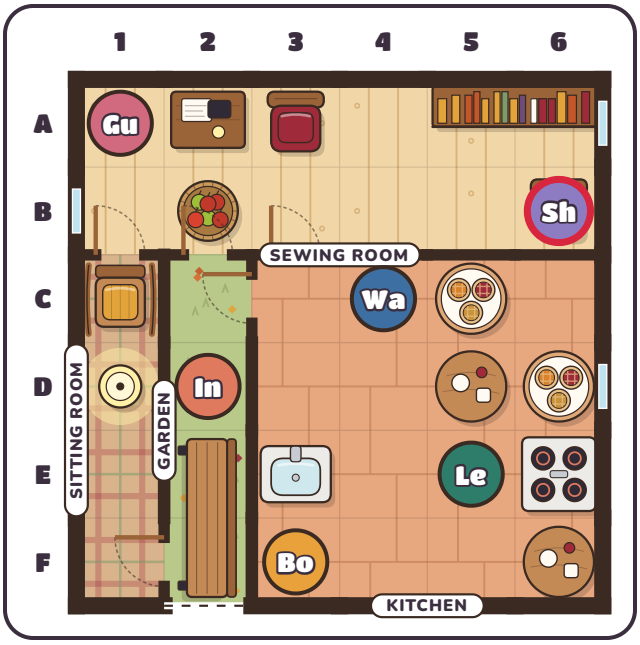
Notes

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

roomformurder.com · a new free case every day

Scan for today's case

Solution: Trouble at the Cottage



THE KILLER

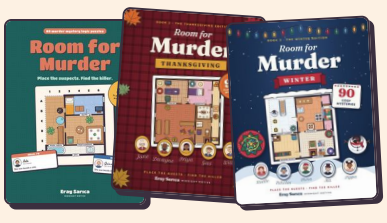
Shirley, the lunch lady

The only other person in the Sewing Room with Gus.

Ingrid D2 · Walt C4 · Leroy E5 · Booker F3 · Shirley B6 · Gus A1

How to solve it, step by step

1. Ingrid: “She was beside a bench.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: D2.
2. Leroy: “He was beside the stove.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: E5.
3. Booker: “He was beside a sink.” Of the squares that fit, only F3 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
4. Row A still needs someone, and only Gus can still stand in it — so Gus is somewhere in row A.
5. Row B still needs someone, and Shirley is the only one who can still stand in it. In row B, “There was the stove in her column.” fits only B6.
6. Walt: “He was beside the pie table.” Of the squares that fit, only C4 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Gus, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: A1, in the Sewing Room.
8. Everyone is placed. Gus lies in the Sewing Room, and the only other person in there is Shirley. Shirley 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.