Grace at the Backyard Fry

Willa was about to announce who gets the farm.

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



What the witnesses say



Rudy the high-school coach
"He was beside a sink."



Tilly the knitting-club president
"She was beside an armchair. There was a crate in her row."



Ezra the orchard keeper
"He was beside a rocking chair."



Toby the cousin from the city
"He was beside the fridge."



Ty the star quarterback
"He was beside a plant. He was in a corner of a room."



Faye the florist
"There was a sink in her column. There was a crate in her row."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

armchair · recliner · rocking chair

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · plant · bookshelf · stove · fridge · sink · car · grill · crate

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: Grace at the Backyard Fry



THE KILLER

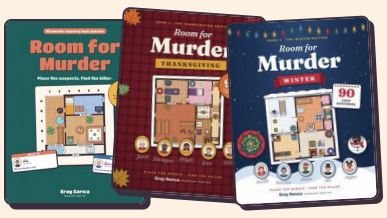
Faye, the florist

The only other person in the Garage with Willa.

Rudy F3 · Tilly C7 · Ezra D6 · Toby G4 · Ty B5 · Faye A2 · Willa E1

How to solve it, step by step

1. Tilly: “She was beside an armchair. There was a crate in her row.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: C7.
2. Faye: “There was a sink in her column. There was a crate in her row.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: A2.
3. Rudy: “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. Toby: “He was beside the fridge.” Of the squares that fit, only G4 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. Ty: “He was beside a plant. He was in a corner of a room.” Of the squares that fit, only B5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Ezra: “He was beside a rocking chair.” Of the squares that fit, only D6 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Willa, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: E1, in the Garage.
8. Everyone is placed. Willa lies in the Garage, and the only other person in there is Faye. Faye 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.