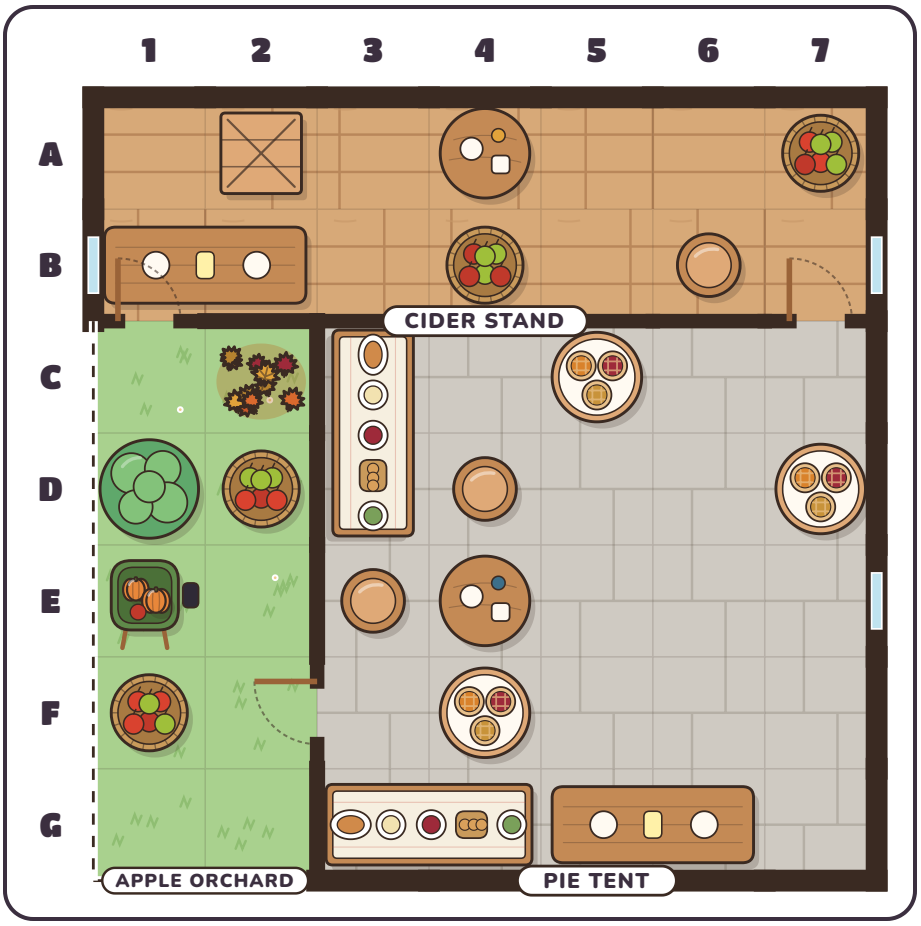
Pie Night at the Harvest Fair

Everyone was stuffed. **Celeste** was finished.

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



What the witnesses say



Gus the parade marshal
"He was beside a stool. He was beside the pie table."



Tilly the knitting-club president
"She was beside a stool."



Desmond the bus driver
"He was beside the pie table."



Faye the florist
"She was diagonally next to Shirley."



Shirley the lunch lady
"There was a tree in her column."



Pearl the church secretary
"She was beside a stool. There was the buffet table in her column."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

stool · leaf pile

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · tree · crate · buffet table · pie table · wheelbarrow · 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 _____

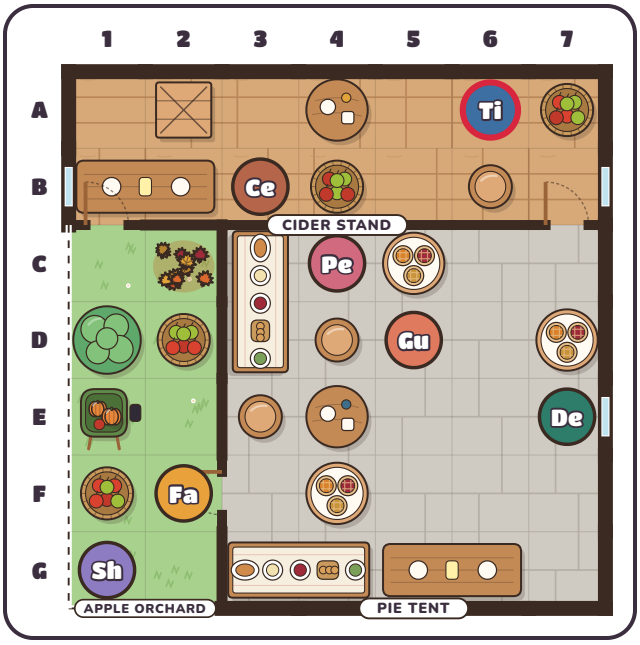
Notes

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

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Solution: Pie Night at the Harvest Fair



THE KILLER

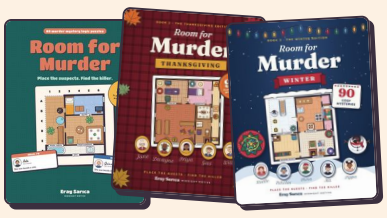
Tilly, the knitting-club president

The only other person in the Cider Stand with Celeste.

Gus D5 · Tilly A6 · Desmond E7 · Faye F2 · Shirley G1 · Pearl C4 · Celeste B3

How to solve it, step by step

1. Every square left for Shirley is in column 1, so column 1 is Shirley's — nobody else can be in column 1.
2. Read Faye's statement — "She was diagonally next to Shirley." — against where Shirley can still be: Faye can only be on F2; Shirley can only be on G1.
3. Faye: "She was diagonally next to Shirley." Of the squares that fit, only F2 is still open — the rest are ruled out above.
4. Pearl: "She was beside a stool. There was the buffet table in her column." Of the squares that fit, only C4 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. Gus: "He was beside a stool. He was beside the pie table." Of the squares that fit, only D5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Desmond: "He was beside the pie table." Of the squares that fit, only E7 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Tilly: "She was beside a stool." Of the squares that fit, only A6 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Shirley: "There was a tree in her column." And Faye said: "She was diagonally next to Shirley." With Faye on F2, only G1 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
9. Celeste, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: B3, in the Cider Stand.
10. Everyone is placed. Celeste lies in the Cider Stand, and the only other person in there is Tilly. Tilly is the killer.



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