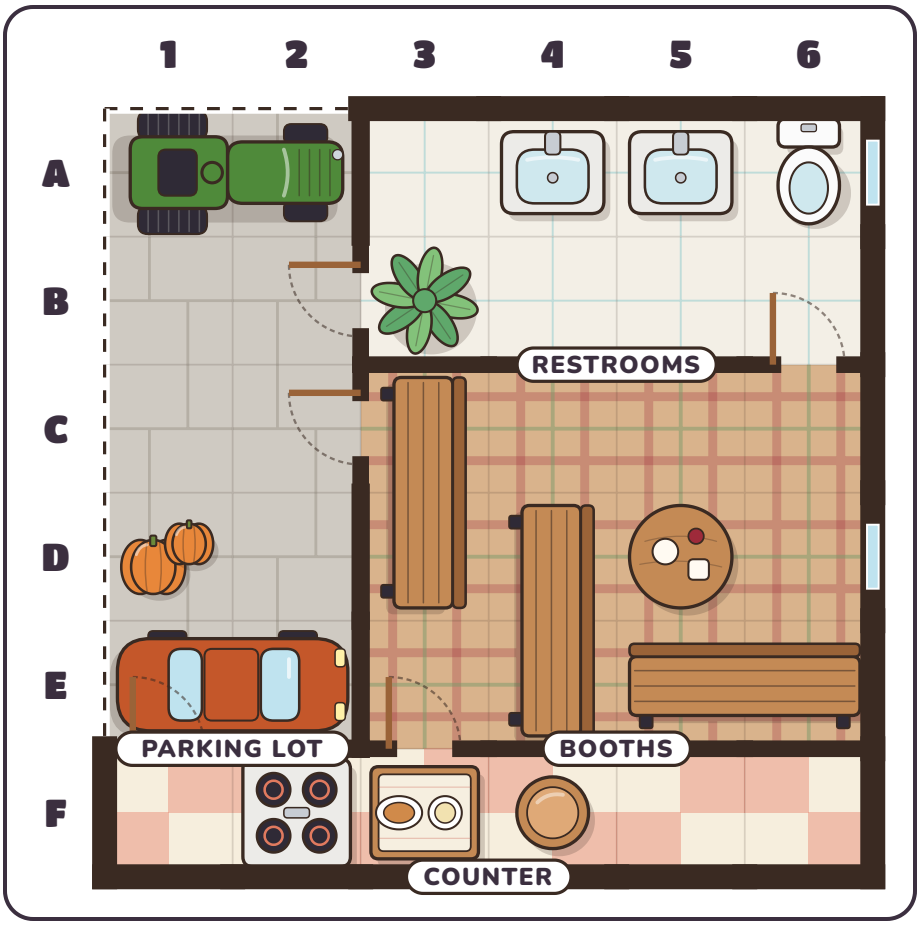
A Body at the Diner

Everyone said they were thankful. Not everyone was thankful for **Victor**.

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

Sunday special: one suspect is lying — the killer. Everyone else tells the truth.



What the witnesses say



Hank the volunteer fireman
"He was beside a bench."



Booker the jazz pianist
"He was beside the car."



June the pie champion
"She was beside a sink."



Desmond the bus driver
"He was beside the toilet."



Ingrid the innkeeper
"She was beside the buffet table."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

stool · bench

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · plant · stove · sink · toilet · car · pumpkin · buffet table · tractor

The rules

1. Exactly one person in every row and every column.
2. Nobody stands on solid furniture.
3. Every statement is true — except the killer's. "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 _____

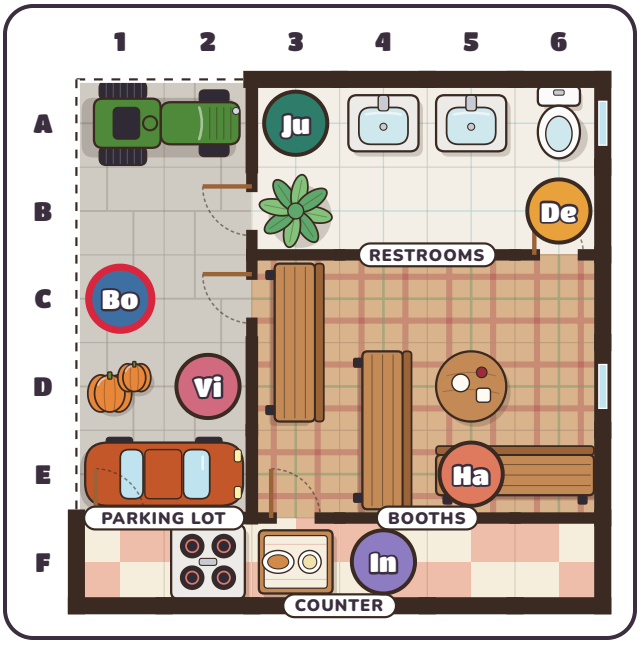
in the _____

Solved in _____

Notes

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

Solution: A Body at the Diner



THE KILLER

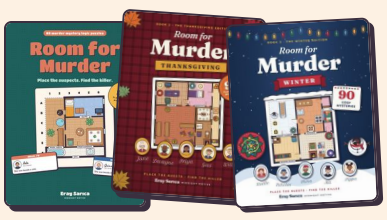
Booker, the jazz pianist

The only other person in the Parking Lot with Victor — and the suspect whose statement was false.

Hank E5 · Booker C1 · June A3 · Desmond B6 · Ingrid F4 · Victor D2

How to solve it, step by step

1. **Sunday rule: exactly one statement is false — the killer's. Try each suspect as the liar in turn: every choice but one runs into a contradiction. Only Booker works, so Booker's statement is the lie and the truth is the opposite: "He was not beside the car."**
2. Desmond: "He was beside the toilet." Only one square on the whole plan fits: B6.
3. Ingrid: "She was beside the buffet table." Only one square on the whole plan fits: F4.
4. June: "She was beside a sink." Of the squares that fit, only A3 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. Hank: "He was beside a bench." Of the squares that fit, only E5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Victor, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: D2, in the Parking Lot.
7. Booker: "He was not beside the car." Of the squares that fit, only C1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Everyone is placed. Victor lies in the Parking Lot, and the only other person in there is Booker. Booker is the killer — and the one who lied.



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.