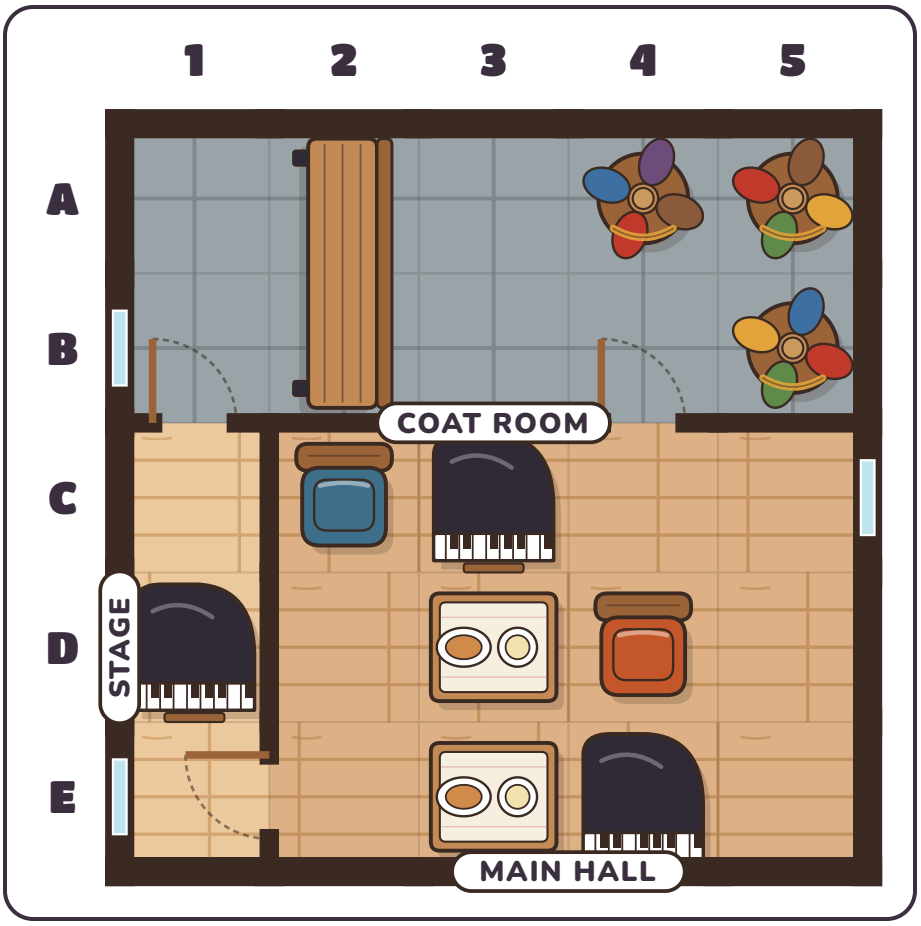
Pie Night at the Town Hall

The kids' table heard the scream first. **Hector** was already gone.

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



What the witnesses say



Bernadette the church organist
"She was beside the piano."



Gwen the yoga teacher
"She was beside a chair. She was not beside the buffet table."



Marcus the pastor
"He was beside the coat rack."



Marisol the gravy queen
"She was beside a chair. She was beside the piano."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · bench

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

piano · buffet 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 _____

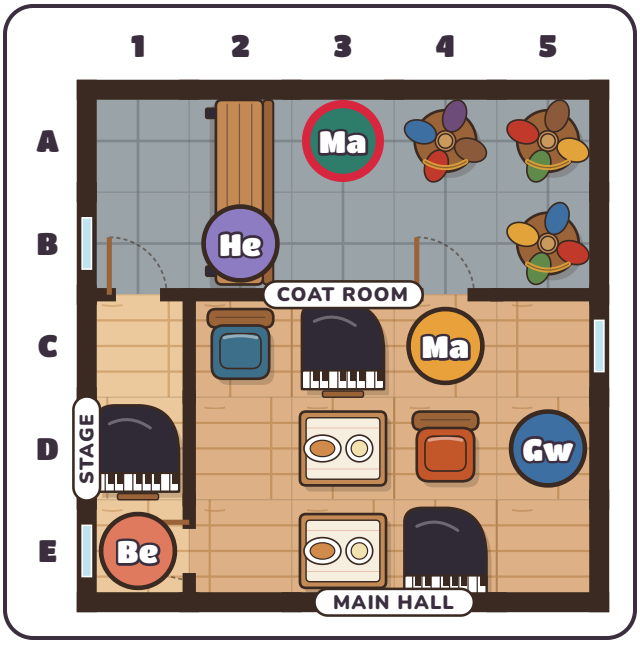
Notes

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

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Solution: Pie Night at the Town Hall



THE KILLER

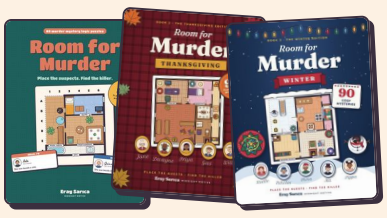
Marcus, the pastor

The only other person in the Coat Room with Hector.

- Bernadette E1
- Gwen D5
- Marcus A3
- Marisol C4
- Hector B2

How to solve it, step by step

1. Marisol: “She was beside a chair. She was beside the piano.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: C4.
2. Gwen: “She was beside a chair. She was not beside the buffet table.” Of the squares that fit, only D5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
3. Bernadette: “She was beside the piano.” Of the squares that fit, only E1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
4. Marcus: “He was beside the coat rack.” Of the squares that fit, only A3 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. Hector, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: B2, in the Coat Room.
6. Everyone is placed. Hector lies in the Coat Room, and the only other person in there is Marcus. Marcus 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.