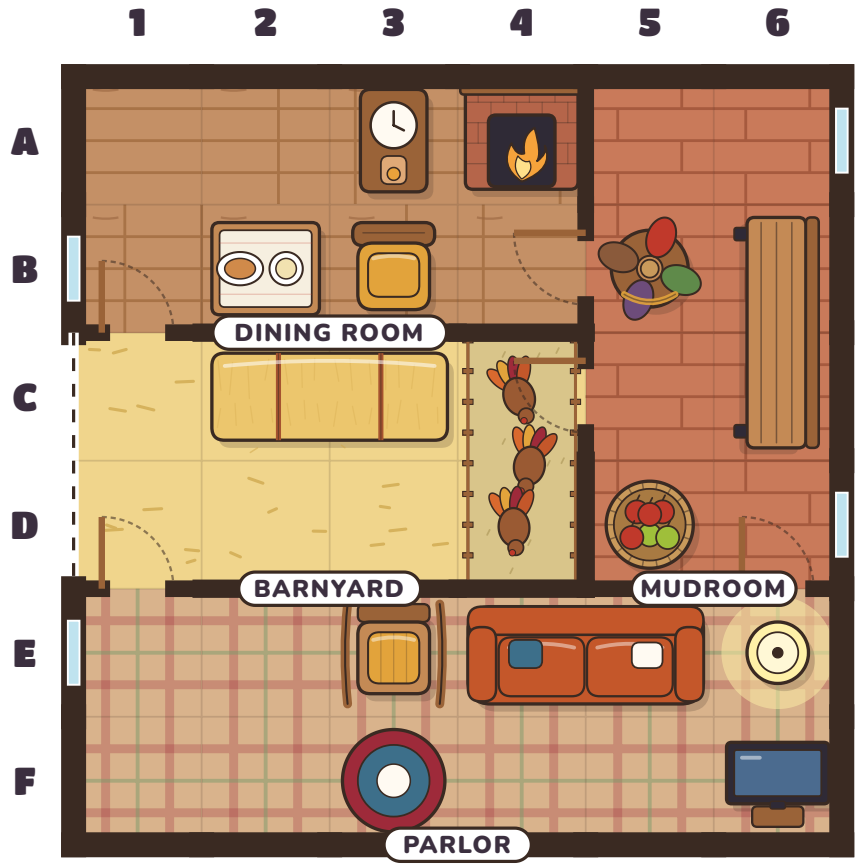
Carving Time at the Farmhouse

The cranberry sauce still had the can ridges on it. **Bernadette** never got to complain.

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



What the witnesses say



Booker the jazz pianist
"He was beside a rug. There was the buffet table in his column."



Rosa the sous-chef
"She was beside the grandfather clock."



Gus the parade marshal
"There was a lamp in his column."



Pearl the church secretary
"There was the grandfather clock in her row."



Jethro the hayride driver
"There was an apple basket in his row."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · sofa · bench · rug · hay bale · rocking chair

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

lamp · fireplace · TV · grandfather clock · buffet table · coat rack · apple basket · turkey pen

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 _____

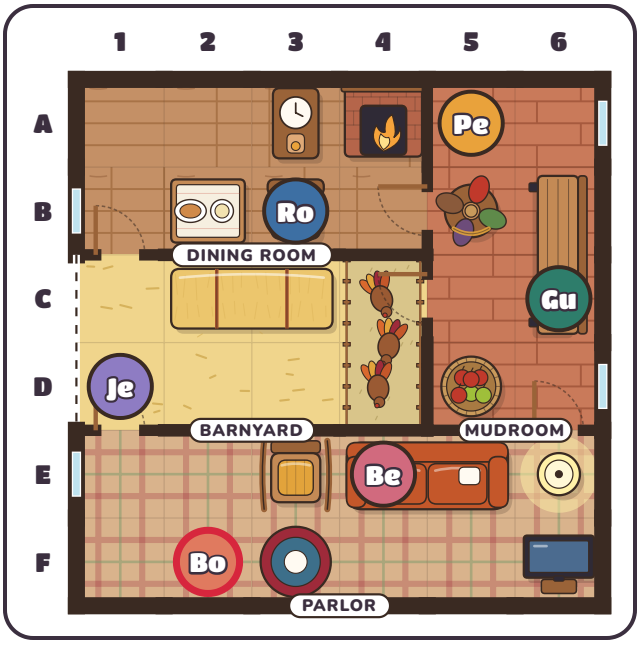
Notes

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

roomformurder.com · a new free case every day

Scan for today's case

Solution: Carving Time at the Farmhouse



THE KILLER

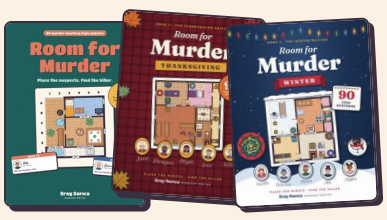
Booker, the jazz pianist

The only other person in the Parlor with Bernadette.

Booker F2 · Rosa B3 · Gus C6 · Pearl A5 · Jethro D1 · Bernadette E4

How to solve it, step by step

1. Booker: “He was beside a rug. There was the buffet table in his column.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: F2.
2. Rosa: “She was beside the grandfather clock.” Of the squares that fit, only B3 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
3. Row E still needs someone, and only Bernadette can still stand in it — so Bernadette is somewhere in row E.
4. Row C still needs someone, and Gus is the only one who can still stand in it. In row C, “There was a lamp in his column.” fits only C6.
5. Jethro: “There was an apple basket in his row.” Of the squares that fit, only D1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Pearl: “There was the grandfather clock in her row.” Of the squares that fit, only A5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Bernadette, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: E4, in the Parlor.
8. Everyone is placed. Bernadette lies in the Parlor, and the only other person in there is Booker. Booker 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.