Leftovers at the Old Inn

The football game went to overtime. **Maude** didn't.

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



What the witnesses say



Toby the cousin from the city
"He was beside the pie table."



Clyde the retired sheriff
"He was diagonally next to Priya."



Faye the florist
"She was beside a bench."



Hector the diner owner
"He was beside a wardrobe."



Booker the jazz pianist
"He was not beside any rug. There was a sink in his row."



Priya the food blogger
"She was beside a lamp."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

armchair · bench · bed · rug · leaf pile · rocking chair

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · plant · bookshelf · lamp · stove · sink · wardrobe · tree · pie table

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.

Solution: Leftovers at the Old Inn



THE KILLER

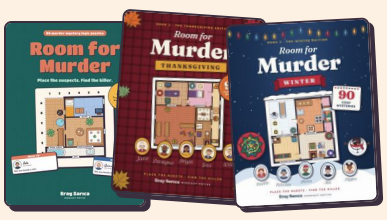
Booker, the jazz pianist

The only other person in the Library with Maude.

Toby B1 · Clyde E2 · Faye A4 · Hector G7 · Booker C5 · Priya F3 · Maude D6

How to solve it, step by step

1. Faye: “She was beside a bench.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: A4.
2. Every square left for Toby is in row B, so row B is Toby's — nobody else can be in row B.
3. Hector and Priya can only stand in rows F and G — 2 people for 2 rows, so those rows are theirs and nobody else can use them.
4. Every square left for Booker is in row C, so row C is Booker's — nobody else can be in row C.
5. Read Clyde's statement — “He was diagonally next to Priya.” — against where Priya can still be: Clyde can only be on E2, E5 or E7; Priya can only be on F3 or F6.
6. Row D still needs someone, and only Maude can still stand in it — so Maude is somewhere in row D.
7. Row G still needs someone, and Hector is the only one who can still stand in it. In row G, “He was beside a wardrobe.” fits only G7.
8. Column 2 still needs someone, and Clyde is the only one who can still stand in it. In column 2, “He was diagonally next to Priya.” fits only E2.
9. Priya: “She was beside a lamp.” And Clyde said: “He was diagonally next to Priya.” With Clyde on E2, only F3 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
10. Toby: “He was beside the pie table.” Of the squares that fit, only B1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
11. Booker: “He was not beside any rug. There was a sink in his row.” Of the squares that fit, only C5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
12. Maude, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: D6, in the Library.
13. Everyone is placed. Maude lies in the Library, and the only other person in there is Booker. Booker is the killer.



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