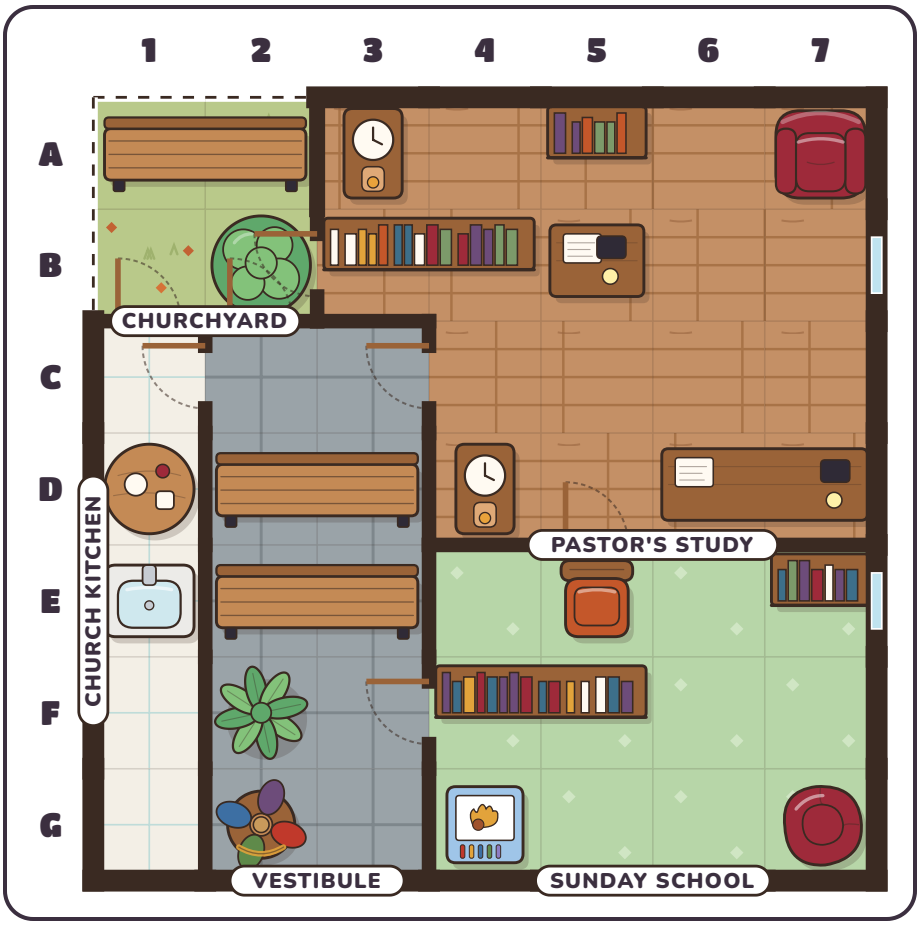
Grace at the Church Potluck

Nobody likes the wishbone ritual. **Ingrid** liked it least of all.

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



What the witnesses say



Silas the beekeeper
"He was exactly one row north of Gwen. There was the grandfather clock in his column."



Dwayne the turkey farmer
"There was the grandfather clock in his row."



Gwen the yoga teacher
"She was beside a tree."



Marcus the pastor
"He was beside a beanbag."



Toby the cousin from the city
"He was beside the coat rack."



Hector the diner owner
"He was in the same room as Dwayne."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · armchair · bench · beanbag

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · desk · plant · bookshelf · sink · tree · grandfather clock · kids' 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 _____

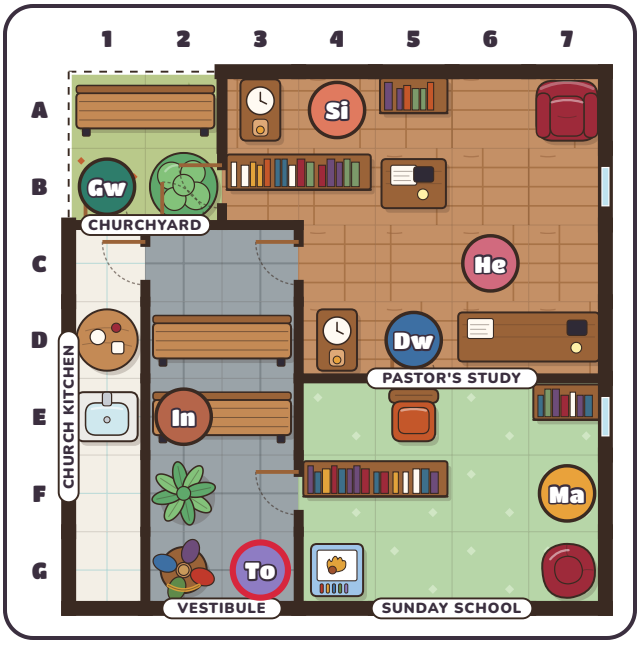
in the _____

Solved in _____

Notes

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

Solution: Grace at the Church Potluck



THE KILLER

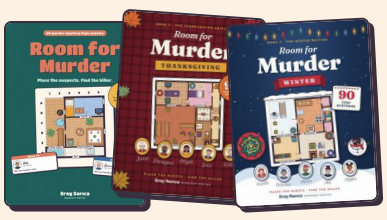
Toby, the cousin from the city

The only other person in the Vestibule with Ingrid.

Silas A4 · Dwayne D5 · Gwen B1 · Marcus F7
Toby G3 · Hector C6 · Ingrid E2

How to solve it, step by step

1. Toby: “He was beside the coat rack.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: G3.
2. Marcus: “He was beside a beanbag.” Of the squares that fit, only F7 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
3. Every square left for Silas is in column 4, so column 4 is Silas's — nobody else can be in column 4.
4. Read Silas's statement — “He was exactly one row north of Gwen.” — against where Gwen can still be: Silas can only be on A4; Gwen can only be on B1.
5. Silas: “He was exactly one row north of Gwen. There was the grandfather clock in his column.” Of the squares that fit, only A4 is still open — the rest are ruled out above.
6. Gwen: “She was beside a tree.” And Silas said: “He was exactly one row north of Gwen.” With Silas on A4, only B1 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Every square left for Dwayne is in row D, so row D is Dwayne's — nobody else can be in row D.
8. Read Hector's statement — “He was in the same room as Dwayne.” — against where Dwayne can still be: Hector can only be on C6; Dwayne can only be on D5.
9. Dwayne: “There was the grandfather clock in his row.” Of the squares that fit, only D5 is still open — the rest are ruled out above.
10. Hector: “He was in the same room as Dwayne.” With Dwayne on D5, only C6 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
11. Ingrid, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: E2, in the Vestibule.
12. Everyone is placed. Ingrid lies in the Vestibule, and the only other person in there is Toby. Toby 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.