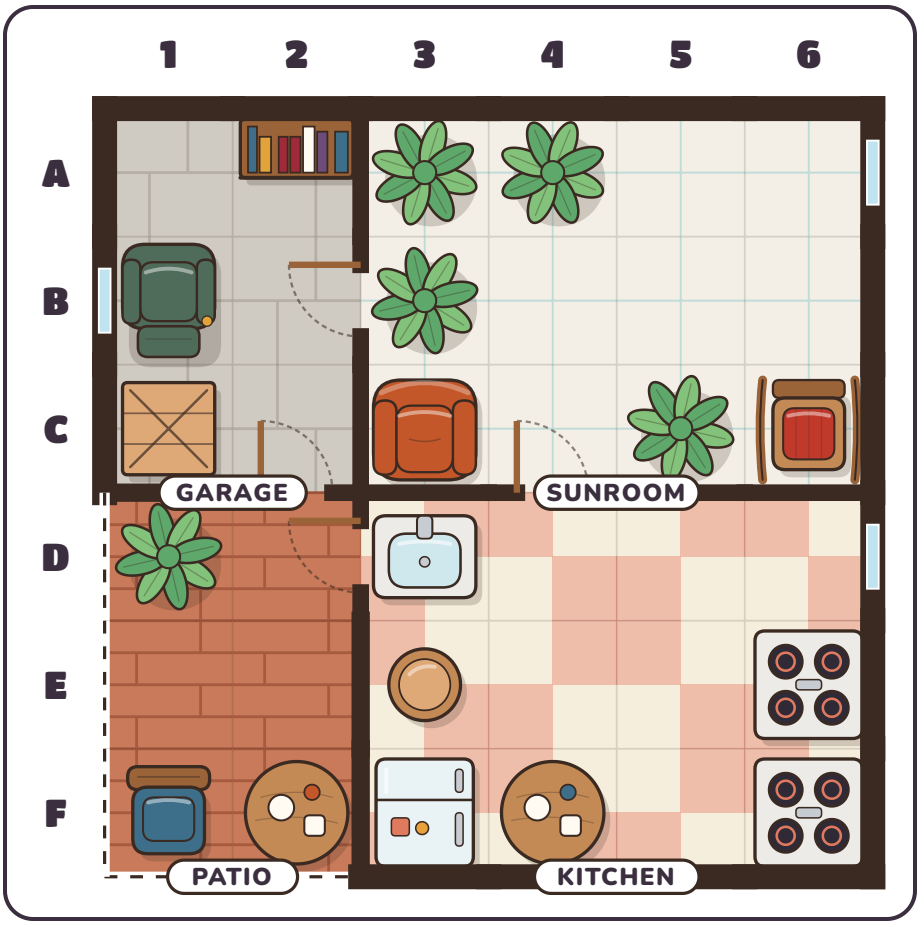
Nobody Leaves the Backyard Fry

The hayride came back one passenger short: **Wren**.

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



Nadia the vet
"She was beside a rocking chair."



Hector the diner owner
"He was beside the fridge."



Silas the beekeeper
"He was beside a crate."



June the pie champion
"She was in a corner of a room."



Toby the cousin from the city
"He was in the Sunroom."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · armchair · stool · recliner · rocking chair

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · plant · bookshelf · stove · fridge · sink · crate

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 _____

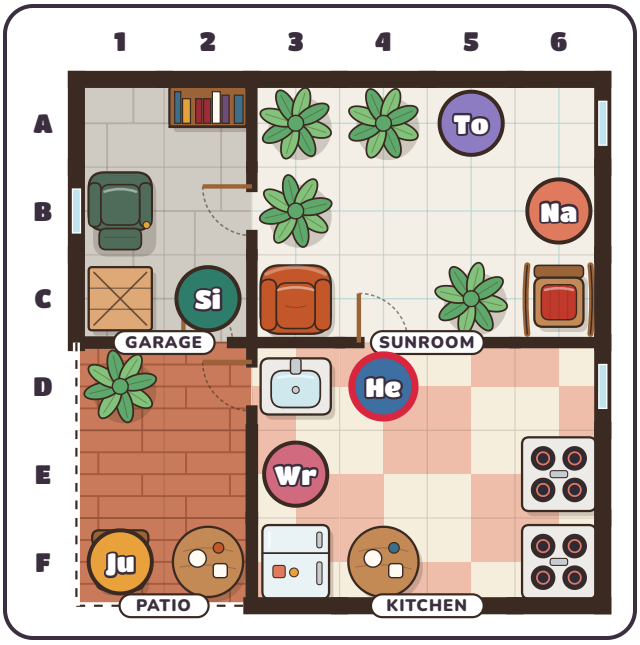
in the _____

Solved in _____

Notes

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

Solution: Nobody Leaves the Backyard Fry



THE KILLER

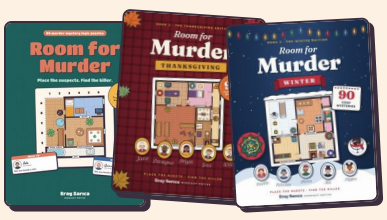
Hector, the diner owner

The only other person in the Kitchen with Wren — and the suspect whose statement was false.

Nadia B6 · Hector D4 · Silas C2 · June F1 · Toby A5 · Wren E3

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 Hector works, so Hector's statement is the lie and the truth is the opposite: "He was not beside the fridge."**
2. Nadia: "She was beside a rocking chair." Only one square on the whole plan fits: B6.
3. Silas: "He was beside a crate." Of the squares that fit, only C2 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
4. Toby: "He was in the Sunroom." Of the squares that fit, only A5 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. June: "She was in a corner of a room." Of the squares that fit, only F1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Wren, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: E3, in the Kitchen.
7. Hector: "He was not beside the fridge." Of the squares that fit, only D4 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Everyone is placed. Wren lies in the Kitchen, and the only other person in there is Hector. Hector 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.