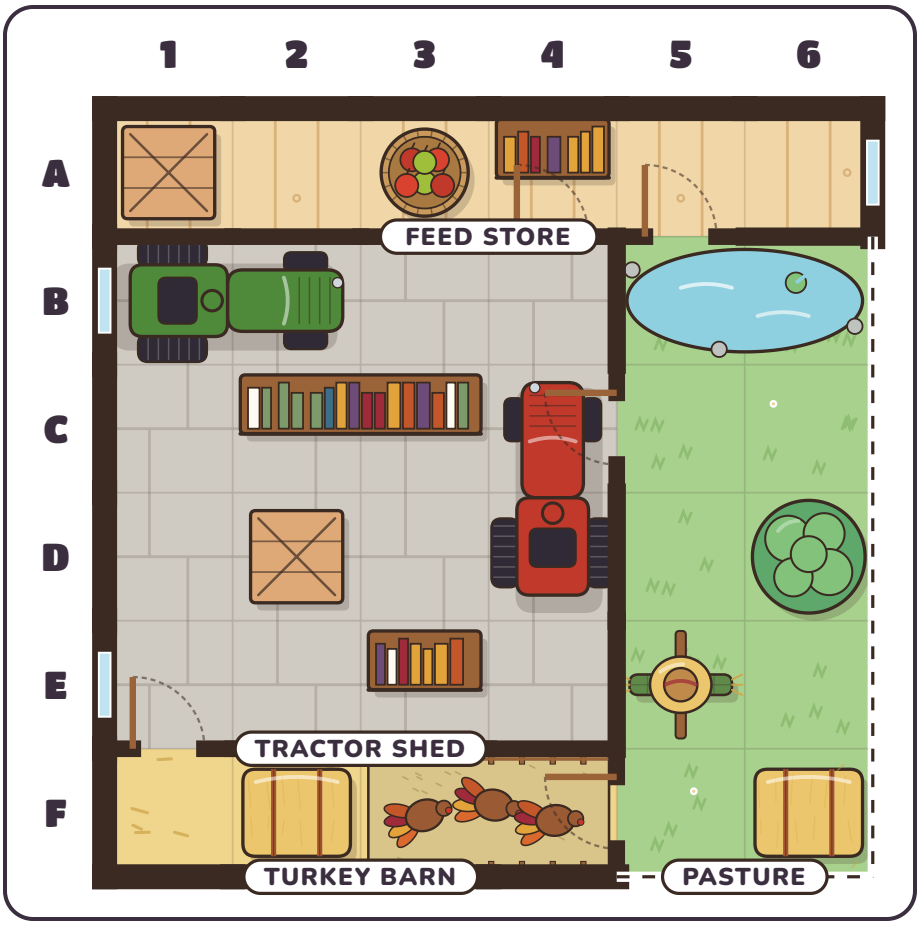
The Night Before Thanksgiving at the Turkey Farm

Otis called dibs on the last slice of pie. That was a mistake.

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



What the witnesses say



Calvin the dentist
"He was beside a crate."



Rosa the sous-chef
"She was beside an apple basket."



Toby the cousin from the city
"He was beside the pond. He was not beside any tree."



Victor the real-estate agent
"He was in the same room as Clyde. He was in a corner of a room."



Clyde the retired sheriff
"He was beside a bookshelf."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

- hay bale

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

- bookshelf
- tree
- pond
- crate
- scarecrow
- tractor
- 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 _____

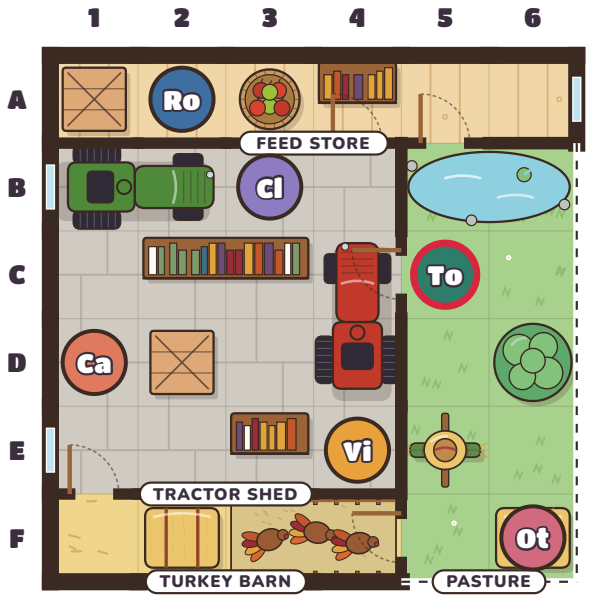
Notes

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

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Solution: The Night Before Thanksgiving at the Turkey Farm



THE KILLER

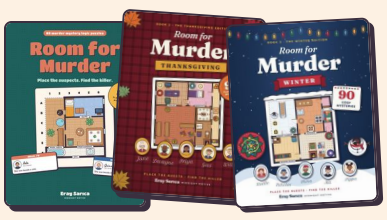
Toby, the cousin from the city

The only other person in the Pasture with Otis.

Calvin D1 · Rosa A2 · Toby C5 · Victor E4 · Clyde B3 · Otis F6

How to solve it, step by step

1. Rosa: “She was beside an apple basket.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: A2.
2. Toby: “He was beside the pond. He was not beside any tree.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: C5.
3. Every square left for Calvin is in row D, so row D is Calvin's — nobody else can be in row D.
4. Read Victor's statement — “He was in the same room as Clyde.” — against where Clyde can still be: Victor can only be on E1 or E4; Clyde can only be on B3.
5. Clyde: “He was beside a bookshelf.” Of the squares that fit, only B3 is still open — the rest are ruled out above.
6. Calvin: “He was beside a crate.” Of the squares that fit, only D1 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Victor: “He was in the same room as Clyde. He was in a corner of a room.” With Clyde on B3, only E4 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Otis, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: F6, in the Pasture.
9. Everyone is placed. Otis lies in the Pasture, and the only other person in there is Toby. Toby 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.