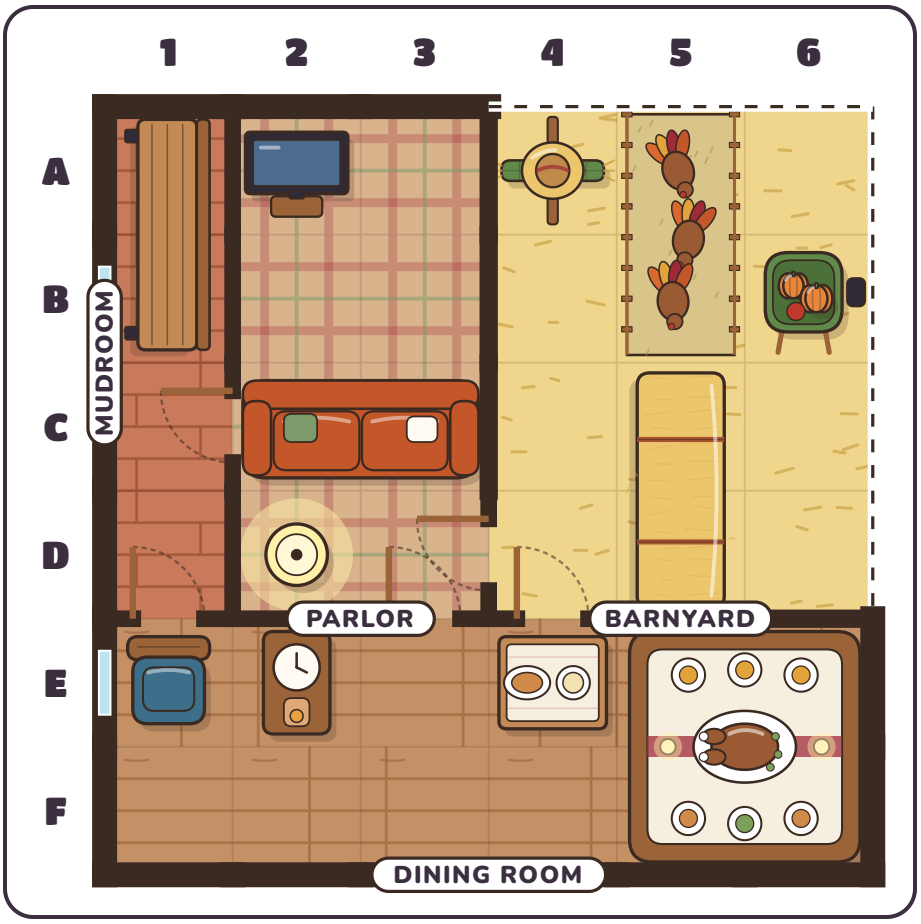
Thanksgiving Dinner at the Farmhouse

A storm knocked the power out halfway through dessert. When it came back, **Leroy** was face down in the stuffing.

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



What the witnesses say



Celeste the mayor
"She was beside the buffet table."



Hector the diner owner
"He was exactly one row north of Celeste."



Silas the beekeeper
"He was beside a hay bale."



Booker the jazz pianist
"He was beside the TV."



Tilly the knitting-club president
"She was beside the wheelbarrow."



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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · sofa · bench · hay bale

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

lamp · TV · grandfather clock · scarecrow · buffet table · feast table · wheelbarrow · 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 _____

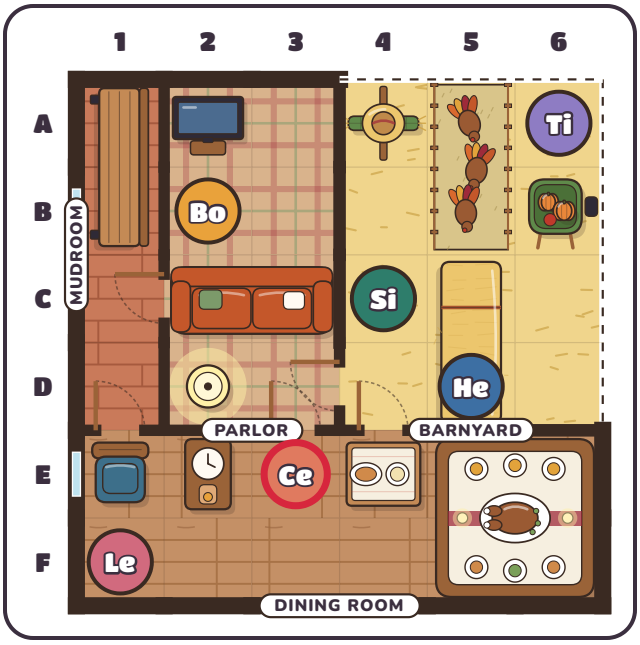
Notes

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

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Solution: Thanksgiving Dinner at the Farmhouse



THE KILLER

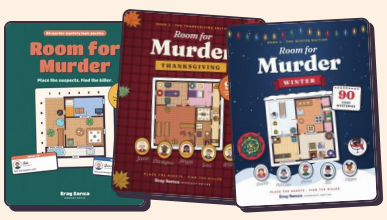
Celeste, the mayor

The only other person in the Dining Room with Leroy.

Celeste E3 · Hector D5 · Silas C4 · Booker B2 · Tilly A6 · Leroy F1

How to solve it, step by step

1. Silas and Tilly can only stand in columns 4 and 6 — 2 people for 2 columns, so those columns are theirs and nobody else can use them.
2. Celeste: “She was beside the buffet table.” Of the squares that fit, only E3 is still open — the rest are ruled out above.
3. Booker: “He was beside the TV.” Of the squares that fit, only B2 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
4. Leroy, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: F1, in the Dining Room.
5. Hector: “He was exactly one row north of Celeste.” With Celeste on E3, only D5 still fits — the rest are ruled out above.
6. Row A still needs someone, and Tilly is the only one who can still stand in it. In row A, “She was beside the wheelbarrow.” fits only A6.
7. Silas: “He was beside a hay bale.” Of the squares that fit, only C4 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
8. Everyone is placed. Leroy lies in the Dining Room, and the only other person in there is Celeste. Celeste 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.