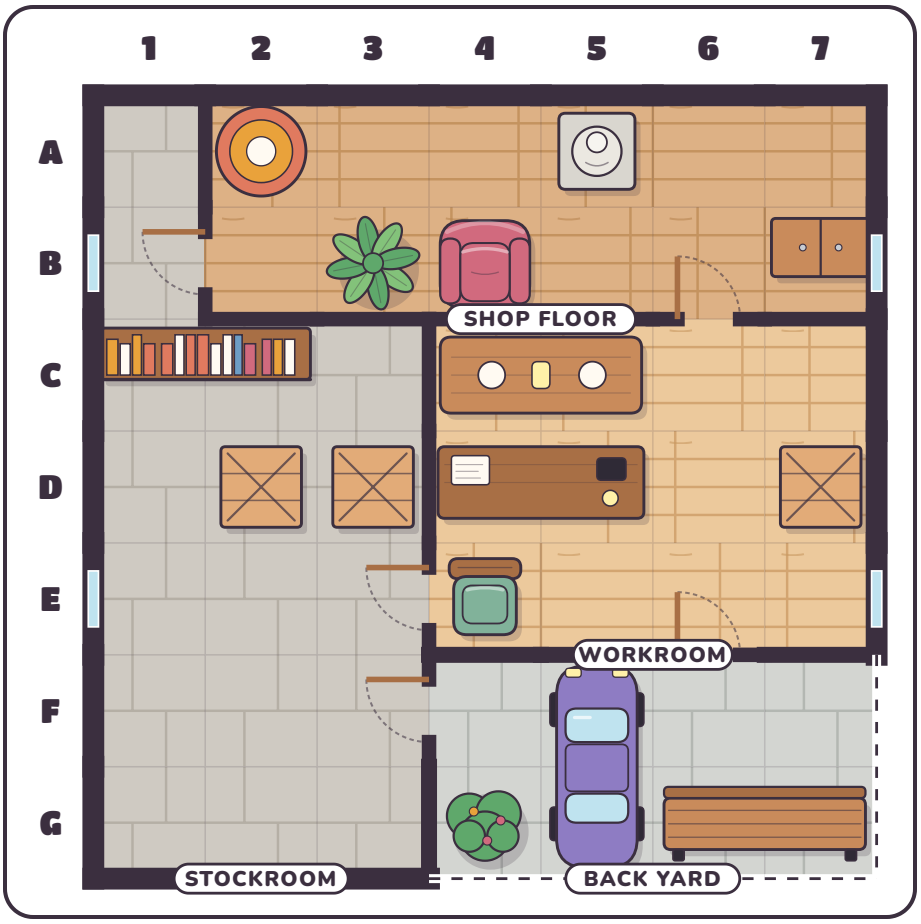
Trouble at the Boutique

The cake was cut, the toast was raised — and **Uma** hit the floor.



What the witnesses say

Nell the nurse
"She was sitting in an armchair."

Cyrus the banker
"He was alone with Zeke."

Yara the doctor
"There was the car in her row. There was a plant in her column."

Daisy the dog walker
"She was beside a bench. She was beside the car."

Zeke the farmer
"He was beside a chair."

Felix the magician
"He was exactly one row north of Zeke."

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

CAN STAND / SIT ON

chair · armchair · bench · rug

SOLID — NOBODY THERE

table · desk · plant · bookshelf · wardrobe · bush · car · crate · statue

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 _____

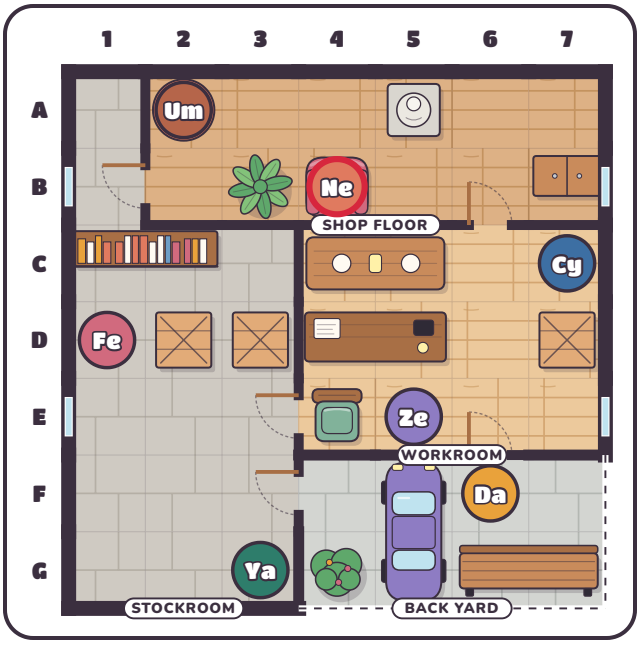
Notes

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

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Solution: Trouble at the Boutique



THE KILLER

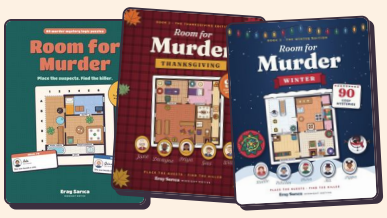
Nell, the nurse

The only other person in the Shop Floor with Uma.

Nell B4 · Cyrus C7 · Yara G3 · Daisy F6 · Zeke E5
Felix D1 · Uma A2

How to solve it, step by step

1. Nell: “She was sitting in an armchair.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: B4.
2. Daisy: “She was beside a bench. She was beside the car.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: F6.
3. Zeke: “He was beside a chair.” Only one square on the whole plan fits: E5.
4. Yara: “There was the car in her row. There was a plant in her column.” Of the squares that fit, only G3 is still open — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
5. Cyrus: “He was alone with Zeke.” With Zeke on E5, only C7 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
6. Felix: “He was exactly one row north of Zeke.” With Zeke on E5, only D1 still fits — the others are in rows or columns already taken.
7. Uma, the victim, has no statement — but only one square is left in a free row and column: A2, in the Shop Floor.
8. Everyone is placed. Uma lies in the Shop Floor, and the only other person in there is Nell. Nell is the killer.



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