Large Print Expert Edition: When the Bell Tolled

Your first case starts here.

Who Moved the Final Umbrella?

One complete murder mystery logic puzzle to print and solve.

By Edyn Bliss

1. Read How to Play and the worked example on the next two pages.

2. Open the case file. Use the clues to place every suspect on the floor plan.

3. Name the murderer, then check your answer after the STOP page.

You will need: a pencil and an eraser.

This sample is the first case from the book, exactly as it appears in print. The How to Play page mentions hints near the centre of the book: those are in the full book only.

Print at actual size (100%) on US Letter paper. On A4, choose Fit. The solution begins after the STOP page.

Explore The Whodunit Grid Mysteries at BrainBoxBooks.shop

HOW TO PLAY

Solve the crime by placing every character on the scene. Each clue narrows the possibilities until only one suspect can be alone with the victim.

1 PLACE EVERYONE

Each character occupies exactly one square. A character may stand on an empty floor square or on an object listed in the puzzle's “Can be occupied” key. Every other object is blocking and cannot be occupied.

2 ONE PER ROW & COLUMN

Like Sudoku, no two characters may share a row or column. Once someone is placed, cross out every other square in that row and column.

3 READ “BESIDE” CAREFULLY

“Beside” means directly above, below, left or right, in the same room. Diagonal squares and squares across a wall do not count.

4 CATCH THE MURDERER

The murderer is the one suspect who ends up alone with the victim in the victim’s room. Every puzzle has a unique solution.

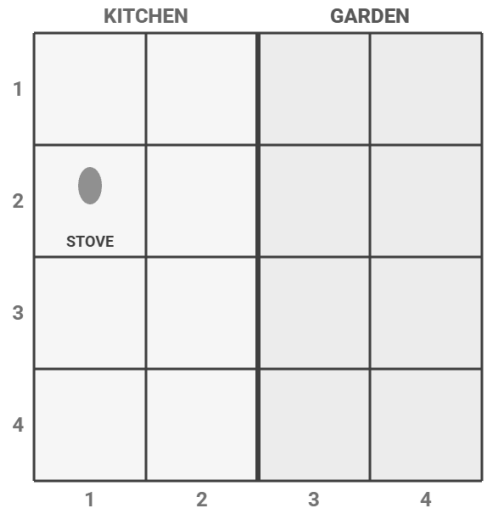
NOTE: If you get stuck there are hints for each puzzle near the centre of the book.

DETECTIVE’S TIP

Cross out impossible squares as you go. The strongest clues often become useful only after another row or column has been eliminated.

How to Solve: A Worked Example

Every case is pure logic, with no guessing. Follow this tiny 4×4 mystery one clue at a time. Place one guest in every row and column; whoever shares the victim's room is the murderer.



THE CLUES

Clue 1. Ada was in column 1.
Clue 2. Ada was in the top row.
Clue 3. Bo was beside the Stove.
Clue 4. Cy was in column 3.
Clue 5. Dex (the victim) was in row 4, column 4, in the Garden.
Clue 6. The Garden held exactly one other guest besides Dex.

FOLLOW THE DEDUCTION

1. Together, Clues 1 and 2 place Ada at row 1, column 1.

2. Clue 5 fixes Dex at row 4, column 4.

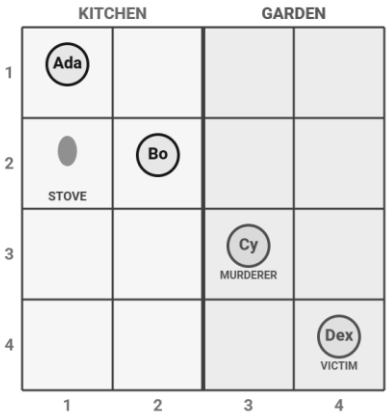
3. Clue 4 puts Cy in column 3. Columns 1, 3 and 4 are taken, so Bo must use column 2.

4. By Clue 3, Bo must occupy the only column-2 square beside the Stove: row 2, column 2.

5. Only row 3 remains for Cy, so Cy is at row 3, column 3.

6. By Clue 6, Cy is the only guest sharing the Garden with Dex, so Cy is the murderer.

Cy shared the Garden with Dex, so Cy is the murderer.



CASE FILE

FILE 001

VICTIM

Kacy

SCENE STATUS

CLASSIFIED

CASE

Chapter 1: Who Moved the Final Umbrella?

DETECTIVE'S NOTES

Every suspect insists they were elsewhere. Exactly one was alone with Kacy. Place them all, the statements never lie, and the truth has nowhere left to hide.

UNSOLVED

The Case File: Who's Who

Before the first case, meet the regulars. Some are witnesses, some are suspects, and all of them are somebody's alibi.



• Kacy

At the center of this case. Keep a very close eye.



Alan

Arrived early, left late, and noticed exactly what suited him.



Clover

Was 'nowhere near the scene'. Knows the scene's floor plan cold.



Maddox

Writes everything down in a notebook nobody is allowed to see.



Oscar

The kind of face a jury trusts. The kind of hands a locksmith envies.



Payton

Has an alibi for every hour of the day, including several that overlap.



Roderick

Hurt a fly? Not him, surely. The flies have declined to comment.



Thayer

Smiles like someone who has already read the last page.



Wadsworth

Has never once been caught. Mentions this a little too often.

Who Moved the Final Umbrella? 1



Payton was in the **Entrance Hall**; he was also in the **4th column**.



Clover was exactly three columns east of **Oscar**.



If **Roderick** was in the **Parlor**, then **Oscar** was in the **Crypt**.



Roderick: By every account, he was sitting on a **rocking chair**.



Maddox and **Payton** were never both in the **Attic**, yet one of them was there.



Alan was the only person in the **Portrait Gallery**.



Wadsworth was in either the **Kitchen** or the **Attic**, though he wouldn't say which.



Thayer spent the whole evening against an **outer wall** of the floor plan.



Kacy
Two guests were in the room with her at the end. They were in it together.

THE MURDERER IS _____

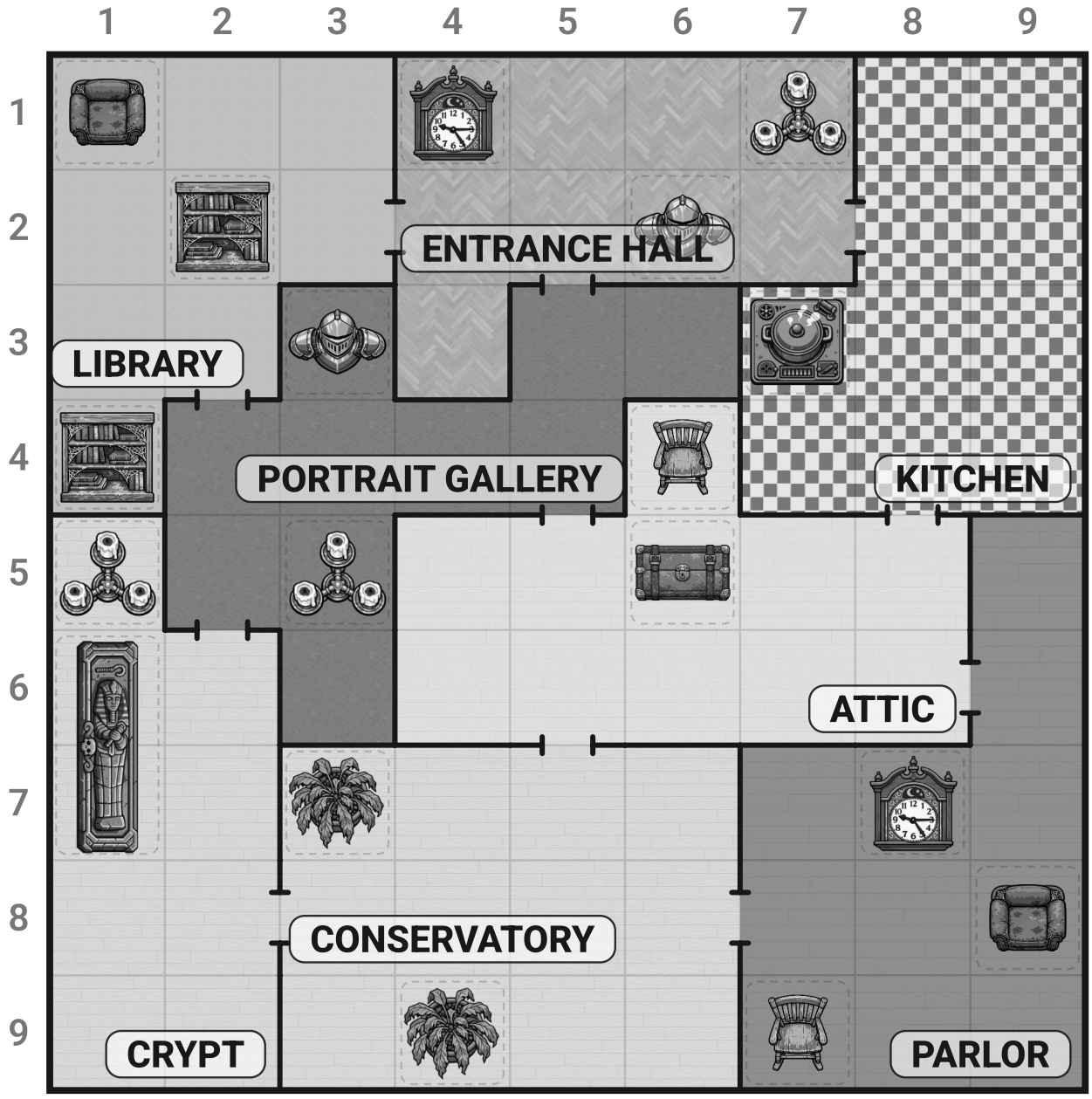
Who Moved the Final Umbrella? 1

Before your coffee cooled, the creaky old house on the hill offered its first puzzle: Kacy. Restore every position, then identify Kacy's single companion as the murderer.

CAN OCCUPY



ROCKING CHAIR ARMCHAIR

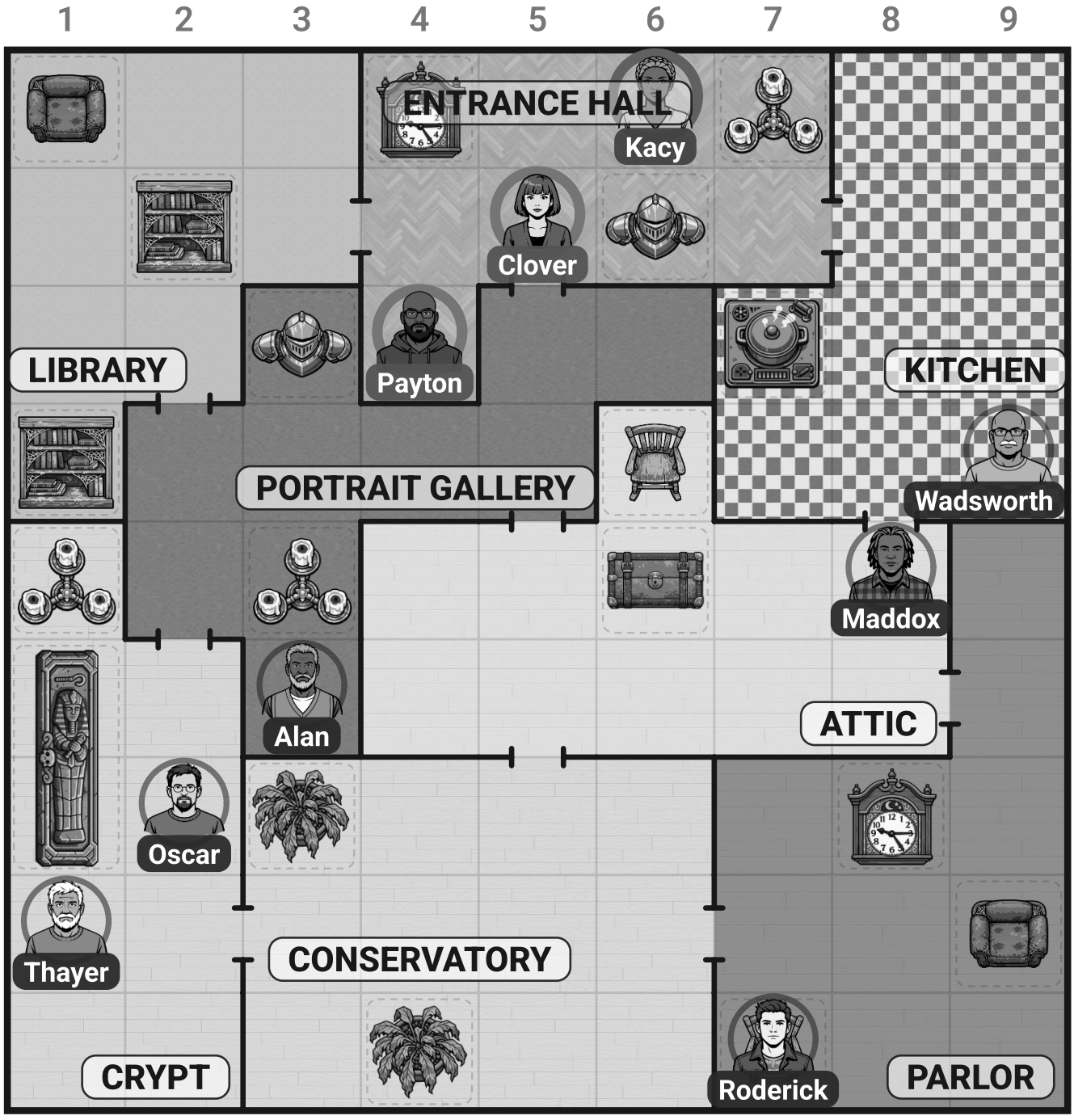


STOP, DETECTIVE!

The solution is on the next page.

Name your murderer before you turn over. The next page shows where everyone was and who did it.

Who Moved the Final Umbrella? 1



How to solve it

Every statement on a card is **true**. Exactly one suspect stands in each **row** and one in each **column**, so placing a suspect rules that whole row and column out for everyone else. Some objects can be stood on and some cannot, the key at the top shows which. A coordinate like "column 4, row 6" means the **4th** column along the top and the **6th** row down the side. The answer is the **two** suspects who end up sharing a room with **Kacy**.

1. No single rule settles **Payton**, so test his remaining squares one at a time. Try column 4, row 2 and follow it through: it ends with two people forced into the same row or column, or a statement nothing left on the board can satisfy. That leaves column 4, row 3 (the **Entrance Hall**).
2. No single rule settles **Roderick**, so test his remaining squares one at a time. Try column 6, row 4 and follow it through: it ends with two people forced into the same row or column, or a statement nothing left on the board can satisfy. That leaves column 7, row 9 (the **Parlor**).
3. No single rule settles **Oscar**, so test his remaining squares one at a time. Try each of column 2, row 6; column 1, row 8; column 2, row 8 and follow it through: each ends with two people forced into the same row or column, or a statement nothing left on the board can satisfy. That leaves column 2, row 7 (the **Crypt**).
4. No single rule settles **Alan**, so test his remaining squares one at a time. Try each of column 3, row 4; column 5, row 4 and follow it through: each ends with two people forced into the same row or column, or a statement nothing left on the board can satisfy. That leaves column 3, row 6 (the **Portrait Gallery**).
5. No single rule settles **Maddox**, so test his remaining squares one at a time. Try each of column 6, row 4; column 5, row 5 and follow it through: each ends with two people forced into the same row or column, or a statement nothing left on the board can satisfy. That leaves column 8, row 5 (the **Attic**).
6. No single rule settles **Clover**, so test her remaining squares one at a time. Try each of column 5, row 1; column 5, row 8 and follow it through: each ends with two people forced into the same row or column, or a statement nothing left on the board can satisfy. That leaves column 5, row 2 (the **Entrance Hall**).
7. No single rule settles **Wadsworth**, so test his remaining squares one at a time. Try each of column 9, row 1; column 6, row 4 and follow it through: each ends with two people forced into the same row or column, or a statement nothing left on the board can satisfy. That leaves column 9, row 4 (the **Kitchen**).
8. No single rule settles **Thayer**, so test his remaining squares one at a time. Try each of column 1, row 1; column 6, row 1 and follow it through: each ends with two people forced into the same row or column, or a statement nothing left on the board can satisfy. That leaves column 1, row 8 (the **Crypt**).
9. **Kacy**: “The victim. Whoever shared her room is the killer.” Every other square that fits is now in a row or column someone else has taken, so she must be at column 6, row 1, the **Entrance Hall**.
10. With everyone placed, **Payton** and **Clover** share the **Entrance Hall** with **Kacy**, they did it TOGETHER.

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