Book 1: The Classic Whodunit

Your first case starts here.

Before the Accidental Incident

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.

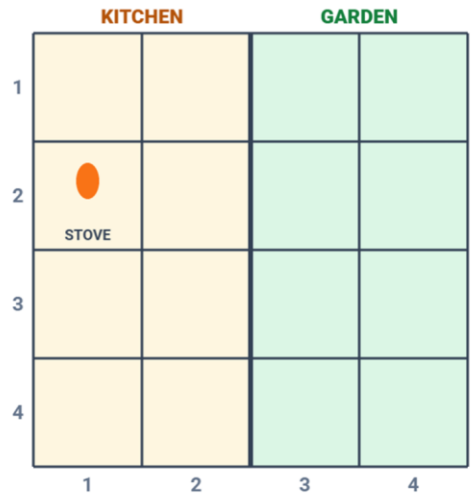
NOTE: If you get stuck there are hints for each puzzle near the centre of the book.

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.

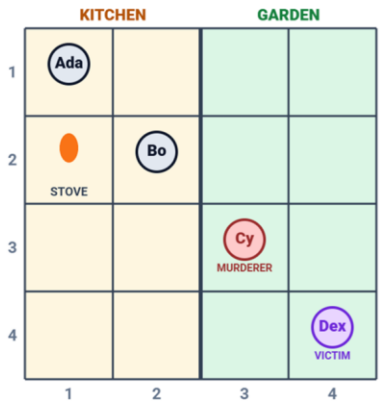
2. Clue 5 fixes Dex at row 4, column 4.

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

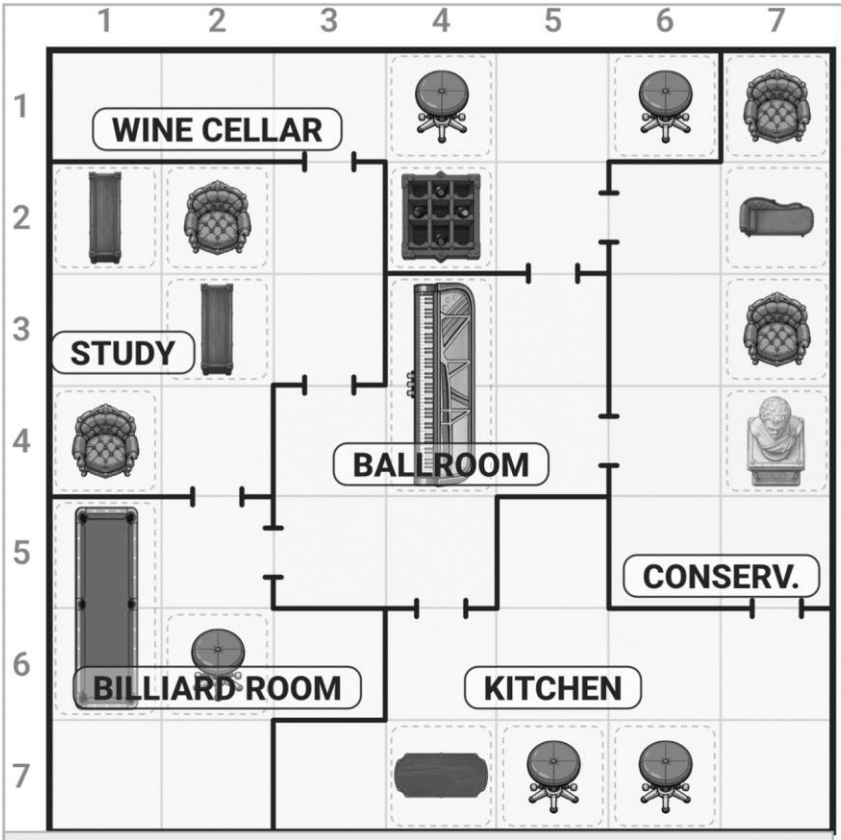
4. By Clue 3, Bo must occupy the only column-2 square beside the Stove: row 2, column 2.

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



CASE FILE

Before the Accidental Incident



Theobald

Your new notebook met its first stain of ink when Theobald was discovered at the scene. Set each name into the scene, then accuse the one who shared his location alone: the murderer.

OBJECT LEGEND

CAN OCCUPY BLOCKED

- CHAISE
- STOOL
- ARMCHAIR

EVIDENCE BOARD



Willoughby
Witnesses saw him in a **corner** of the floor plan.



Aubrey
She was **2 squares** from the **chaise**, counting the difference in rows plus the difference in columns.



Katrina
She and **Willoughby** were never both in the **Study**, yet one of them was there.



Phyllis
She was in the **4th row**, against an **outer wall** of the floor plan.



Ryder
If **Phyllis** was in the **Study**, then **Ryder** was in the **Billiard Room**.



Lloyd
He was in the **top row**, beside a **stool**.



Theobald
The victim. His room held exactly one other person, the killer.

THE MURDERER IS

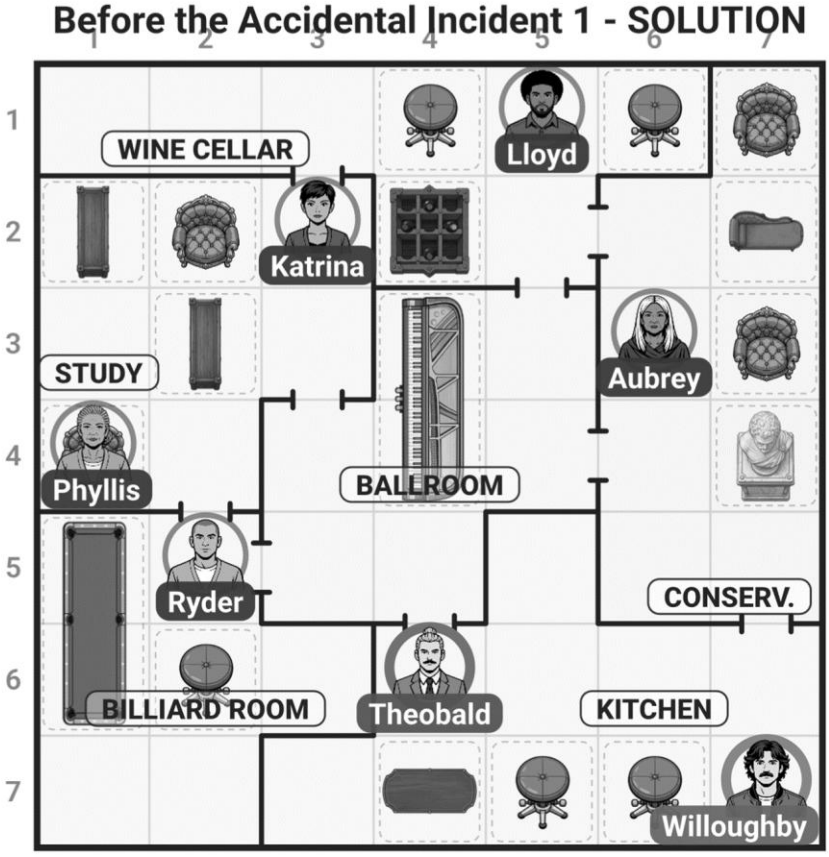
_____

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.

Before the Accidental Incident 1 - SOLUTION





Willoughby: Witnesses saw him in a **corner** of the floor plan.



Aubrey was **2 squares** from the **chaise**, counting the difference in rows plus the difference in columns.



Katrina and **Willoughby** were never both in the **Study**, yet one of them was there.



Phyllis was in the **4th row**, against an **outer wall** of the floor plan.



If **Phyllis** was in the **Study**, then **Ryder** was in the **Billiard Room**.



Lloyd was in the **top row**, beside a **stool**.



Theobald
The victim. His room held exactly one other person, the killer.

THE MURDERER IS WILLOUGHBY , alone with Theobald in the Kitchen.

Ready for another case?

The Classic Whodunit has 50 cases to solve.

Choose a paperback through Amazon, or a printable PDF on the website. Current prices and availability are shown on the book pages.

See all The Whodunit Grid Mysteries

brainboxbooks.shop/whodunit-mysteries

Scan to visit the series page.

Copyright 2026 Edyn Bliss. You may print this free sample for personal use. Please share the website link rather than reselling or reposting the PDF.