Book 4: The Tell-Tale Clue

Your first case starts here.

The Inconvenient Rehearsal Nobody Mentioned

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.

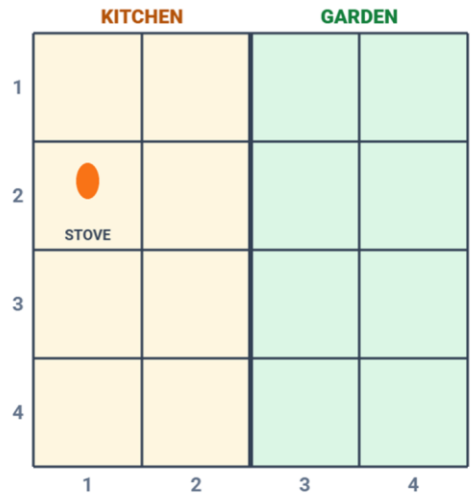
NOTE: If you get stuck there are hints for each puzzle near the centre of the book.

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.

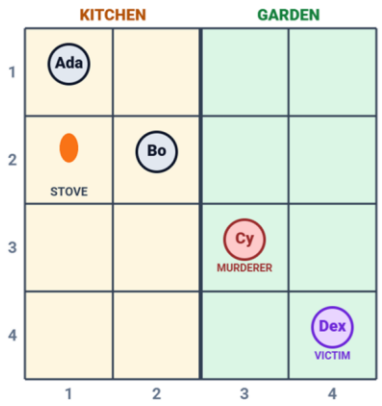
2. Clue 5 fixes Dex at row 4, column 4.

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

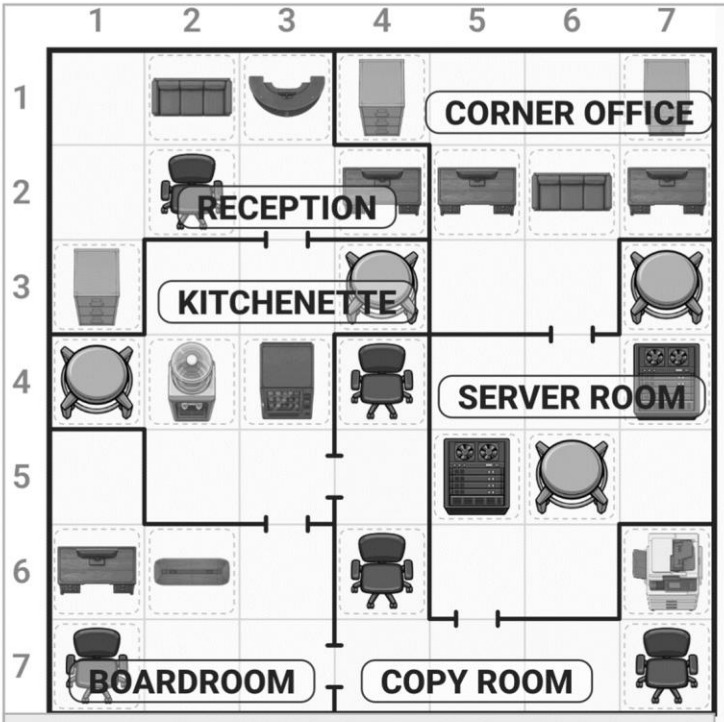
4. By Clue 3, Bo must occupy the only column-2 square beside the Stove: row 2, column 2.

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

The Inconvenient Rehearsal Nobody Mentioned



Michelle

The inaugural case announced itself through the scene door at the tower of glass and secrets, with Michelle beyond it. Complete the placements, then follow her last private encounter to the murderer.

OBJECT LEGEND

CAN OCCUPY	BLOCKED
COUCH	PRINTER
CHAIR	
STOOL	

EVIDENCE BOARD



Ariadne · *tweed cap*
If the one with a **feathered hat** was in the **Copy Room**, then **Ariadne** was in the **Boardroom**.



Lillian · *red scarf*
She was somewhere **south** of the one with a **feathered hat** and somewhere **east** of him.



Griffin · *feathered hat*
He was in either the **Reception** or the **Copy Room**, though he wouldn't say which.



Jeffrey · *pearl brooch*
He and the one with a **tweed cap** were never both in the **Reception**, yet one of them was there.



Finlay · *gold-rimmed glasses*
He was in a **corner** of the floor plan; he was also beside a **couch**.



Homer · *jade ring*
There was a **printer** somewhere in his room, though he was not beside it.



Michelle · *muddy boots*
The victim. Her room held exactly one other person, the killer.

THE MURDERER IS

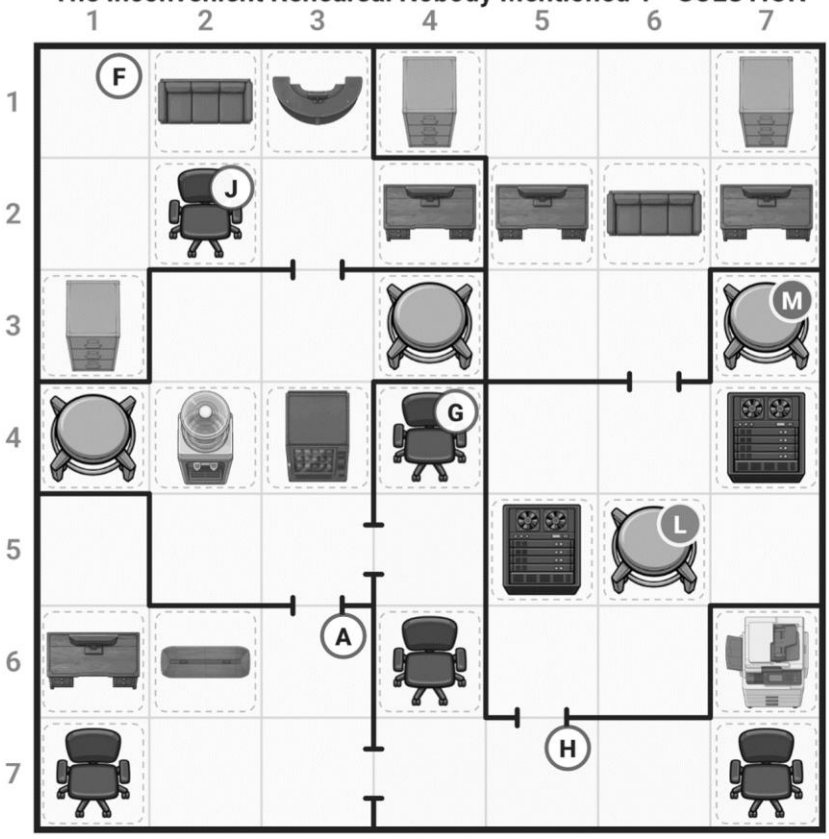
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STOP, DETECTIVE!

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.

The Inconvenient Rehearsal Nobody Mentioned 1 - SOLUTION



The suspects go only by a telltale detail, so match each statement to the roster.

THE SUSPECTS



tweed cap
= Ariadne



red scarf
= Lillian



feathered hat
= Griffin



pearl brooch
= Jeffrey



gold-rimmed glasses
= Finlay



jade ring
= Homer



muddy boots
= Michelle

THE STATEMENTS

1. **(tweed cap)** If the one with a **feathered hat** was in the **Copy Room**, then **Ariadne** was in the **Boardroom**.
2. **(red scarf)** She was somewhere **south** of the one with a **feathered hat** and somewhere **east** of him.
3. **(feathered hat)** He was in either the **Reception** or the **Copy Room**, though he wouldn't say which.
4. **(pearl brooch)** He and the one with a **tweed cap** were never both in the **Reception**, yet one of them was there.
5. **(gold-rimmed glasses)** He was in a **corner** of the floor plan; he was also beside a **couch**.
6. **(jade ring)** There was a **printer** somewhere in his room, though he was not beside it.
7. **(muddy boots)** The victim. Her room held exactly one other person, the killer.

THE MURDERER IS Lillian

Ready for another case?

The Tell-Tale Clue has 50 cases to solve.

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