Book 5: The Missing Suspect

Your first case starts here.

A Missing Errand for Sidney

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.

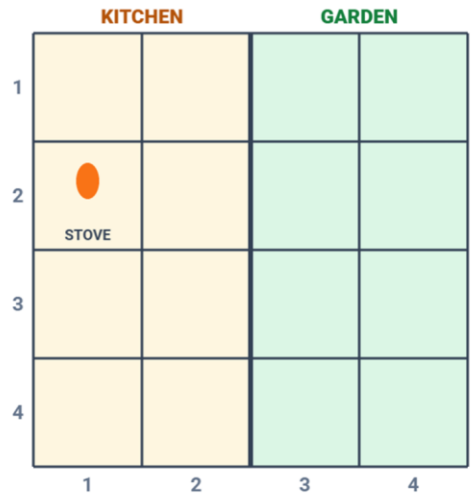
NOTE: If you get stuck there are hints for each puzzle near the centre of the book.

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.

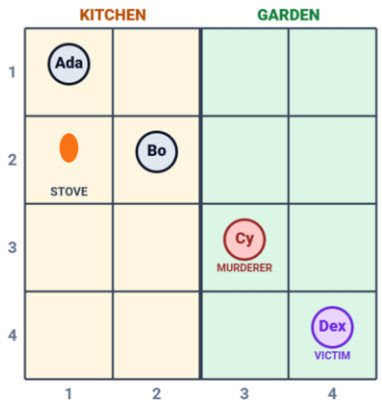
2. Clue 5 fixes Dex at row 4, column 4.

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

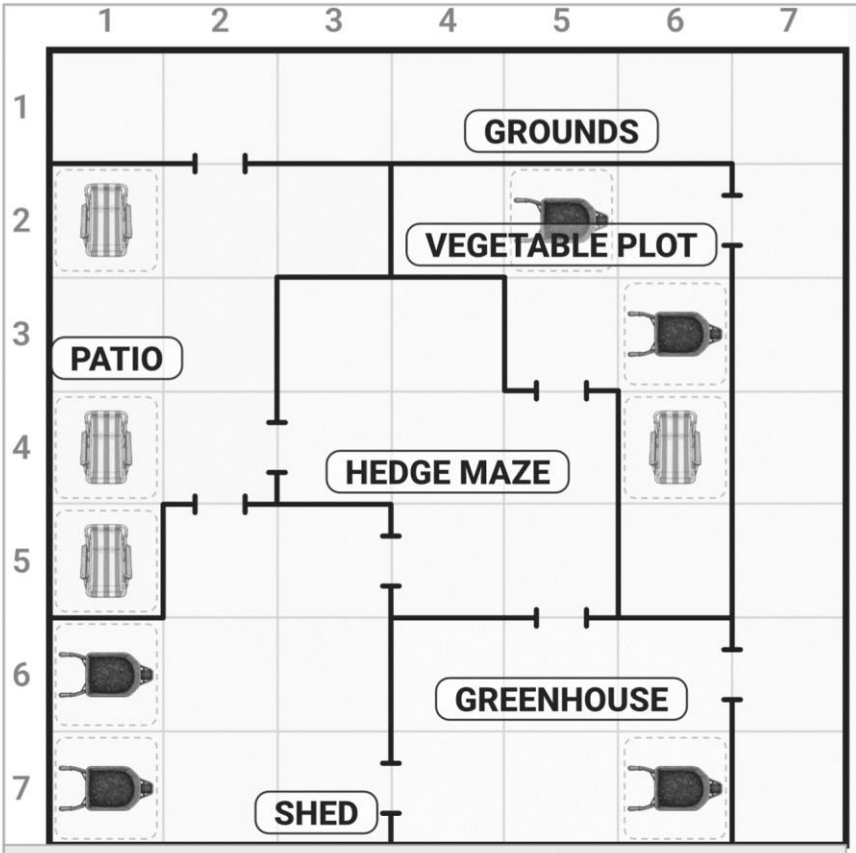
4. By Clue 3, Bo must occupy the only column-2 square beside the Stove: row 2, column 2.

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

A Missing Errand for Sidney



Sidney

You had not learned the route to the estate gardens before Sidney gave you reason to find the scene. Chart every suspect before accusing the person found one-on-one with Sidney of being the murderer.

OBJECT LEGEND

CAN OCCUPY	BLOCKED
LAWN CHAIR	WHEELBARROW

EVIDENCE BOARD



Upton
He was diagonally next to **Bartholomew**; their corners touched.



Maureen
She was in the **Hedge Maze**, and no one else set foot there.



Carlotta
She was **north-west** of **Maureen**: further north AND further west, by any number of squares.



Arabella
She was against an **outer wall** of the floor plan, beside a **wheelbarrow**.



Percival
If **Upton** was in the **Grounds**, then **Percival** was in the **Patio**.



Bartholomew
He was in the **Grounds**; he was also in the **2nd row**.



Sidney
The victim. Whoever shared his room is the killer.

THE MURDERER IS

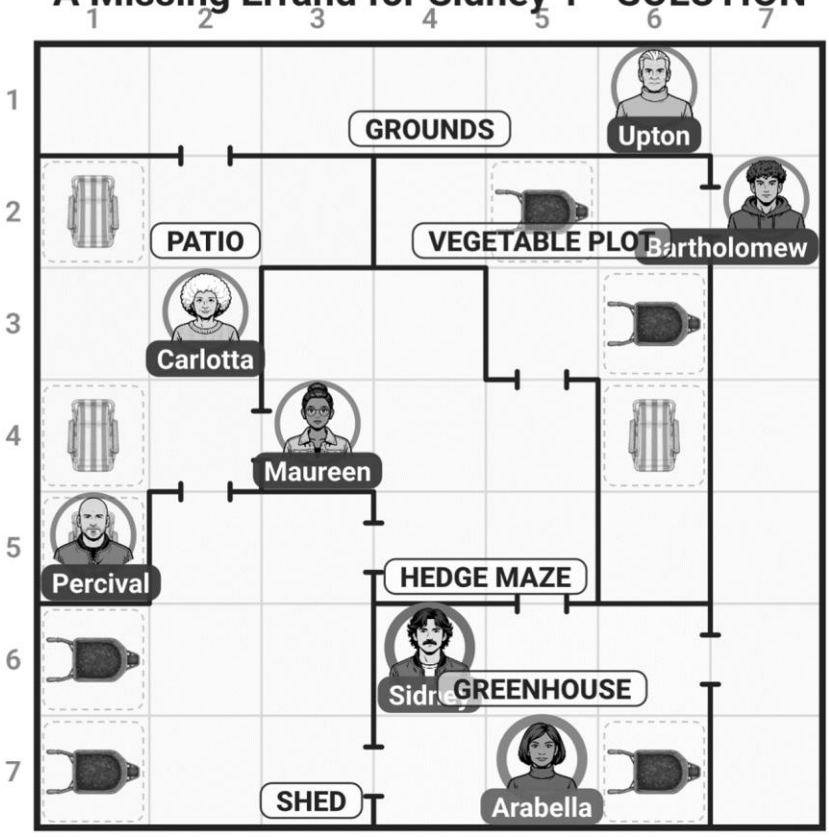
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STOP, DETECTIVE!

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.

A Missing Errand for Sidney 1 - SOLUTION





Upton was diagonally next to **Bartholomew**; their corners touched.



Maureen was in the **Hedge Maze**, and no one else set foot there.



Carlotta was **north-west** of **Maureen**: further north AND further west, by any number of squares.



Arabella was against an **outer wall** of the floor plan, beside a **wheelbarrow**.



If **Upton** was in the **Grounds**, then **Percival** was in the **Patio**.



Bartholomew was in the **Grounds**; he was also in the **2nd row**.



Sidney
The victim. Whoever shared his room is the killer.

THE MURDERER IS ARABELLA , alone with Sidney in the Greenhouse.

Ready for another case?

The Missing Suspect has 50 cases to solve.

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