Book 8: The Grand Mystery

Your first case starts here.

The Awkward Affair Downstairs

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.

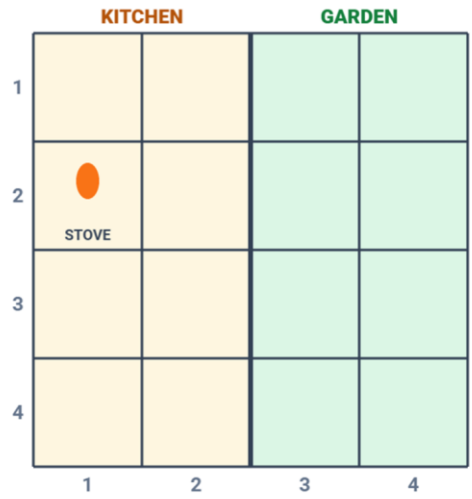
NOTE: If you get stuck there are hints for each puzzle near the centre of the book.

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.

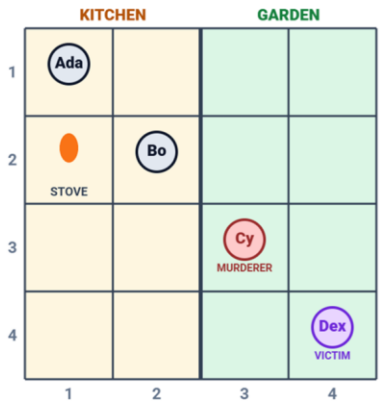
2. Clue 5 fixes Dex at row 4, column 4.

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

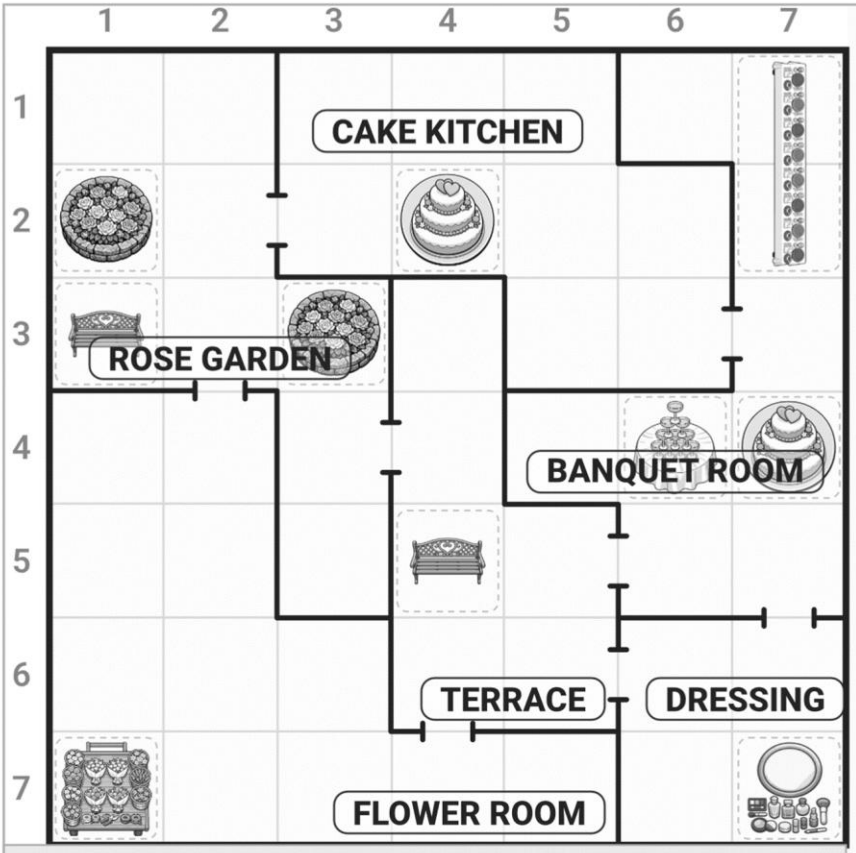
4. By Clue 3, Bo must occupy the only column-2 square beside the Stove: row 2, column 2.

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 Awkward Affair Downstairs



Redmond

One rainy address began everything: the grandest wedding of the year, where Redmond had fallen silent at the scene. Account for every suspect; the figure left alone beside Redmond is the murderer.

OBJECT LEGEND

CAN OCCUPY BLOCKED

BENCH

EVIDENCE BOARD



Lana
By every account, she was in the **2nd column**.



Eda
If **Colin** was in the **Terrace**, then **Eda** was in the **Rose Garden**.



Nelson
By every account, he was in the **Terrace**.



Colin
There was a **bench** somewhere in his room.



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



Gregory
He was in either the **Flower Room** or the **Banquet Room**, though he wouldn't say which.



Redmond
The victim, found in the **6th row**. His room held exactly one other person, the killer.

THE MURDERER IS

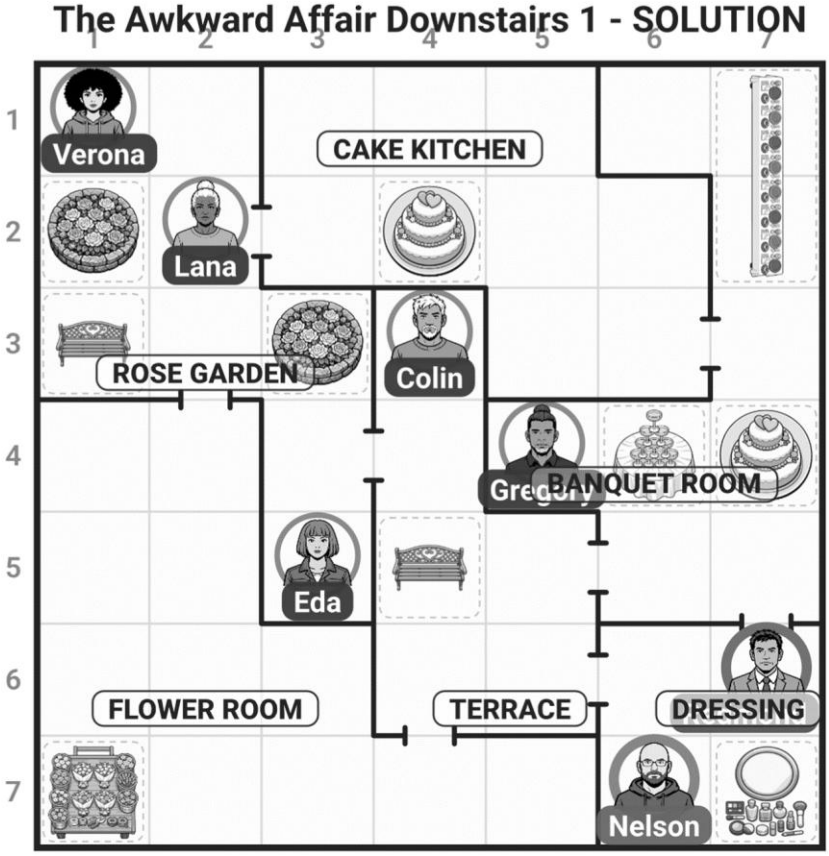
_____

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.

The Awkward Affair Downstairs 1 - SOLUTION





Lana: By every account, she was in the **2nd column**.



If **Colin** was in the **Terrace**, then **Eda** was in the **Rose Garden**.



Nelson: By every account, he was in the **Terrace**.



Colin: There was a **bench** somewhere in his room.



Verona was **north-west** of **Lana**: further north AND further west, by any number of squares.



Gregory was in either the **Flower Room** or the **Banquet Room**, though he wouldn't say which.



Redmond
The victim, found in the **6th row**. His room held exactly one other person, the killer.

THE MURDERER IS NELSON, alone with Redmond in the Dressing Room.

Ready for another case?

The Grand Mystery has 50 cases to solve.

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