BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to Solve a Case

Every case is a floor plan and a handful of facts. Somewhere on the plan lies a body, and somewhere close by stands the person who put it there. Your task is to put every person back on the square they occupied at the moment of the crime.

I **Everyone has a square.**
Each person, every suspect and the victim, was on exactly one square. There is almost never a clue about the victim, but the victim still takes up a row and a column.

II **One to a row, one to a column.**
Every row and every column holds exactly one person.

III **Mind the furniture.**
People can be on bare floor, sitting on a seat or standing on a rug, but on no other furniture.

IV **Alone with the victim.**
The killer is the one suspect who was alone in a room with the victim. That room held the victim, the killer and nobody else.

READING THE CLUES

Right next to	in one of the four squares that share a side with it, never diagonally, **even with a wall in between**.	
North of	in any row higher up the page, in any column: not necessarily straight above. *South of* is the same, downwards.	
Same row	on any square in that row. The same goes for *same column*.	
In a room	on any square inside its thick walls.	
Never set foot in	on none of that room's squares.	
Nobody	no person in the case, the victim included.	
A chair	the plain wooden chair. Other seats are always called by name.	
The and a	*the stove* is the only stove on the plan; *a tree* is any one of the trees.	

North is up. Rows are numbered and columns lettered: A2 is the square in column A, row 2. Overleaf, a worked example, step by step, and at its foot, what to do with the solutions.

◆◇◇◇◇ Easy ◆◆◇◇◇ Steady ◆◆◆◇◇ Tricky ◆◆◆◆◇ Devious ◆◆◆◆◆ Fiendish

CASE 1 · ◆◇◇◇◇ · EASY

Death at Hawthorn Hall

By dusk the storm had cut Hawthorn Hall off from the village. At nine o'clock a single cry rang through the ground floor, and Sir Edmund Hawthorn was found dead. Five people were on the ground floor with him. Each has told Inspector Gorringe where they were at that moment, and the plan Winnie Hale drew that very afternoon tells the rest. Put everyone back in their place, and the killer will be the one left alone with the body.

THOSE PRESENT

(E) **Sir Edmund Hawthorn**, *the victim*
Master of Hawthorn Hall. Rich, proud, and newly rewriting his will.

(G) **Mr Rupert Gage**, *the butler*
Thirty years of loyal service, and one recent warning.

(M) **Dr Ada Marlowe**, *the family doctor*
Signed for a bottle of laudanum last week.

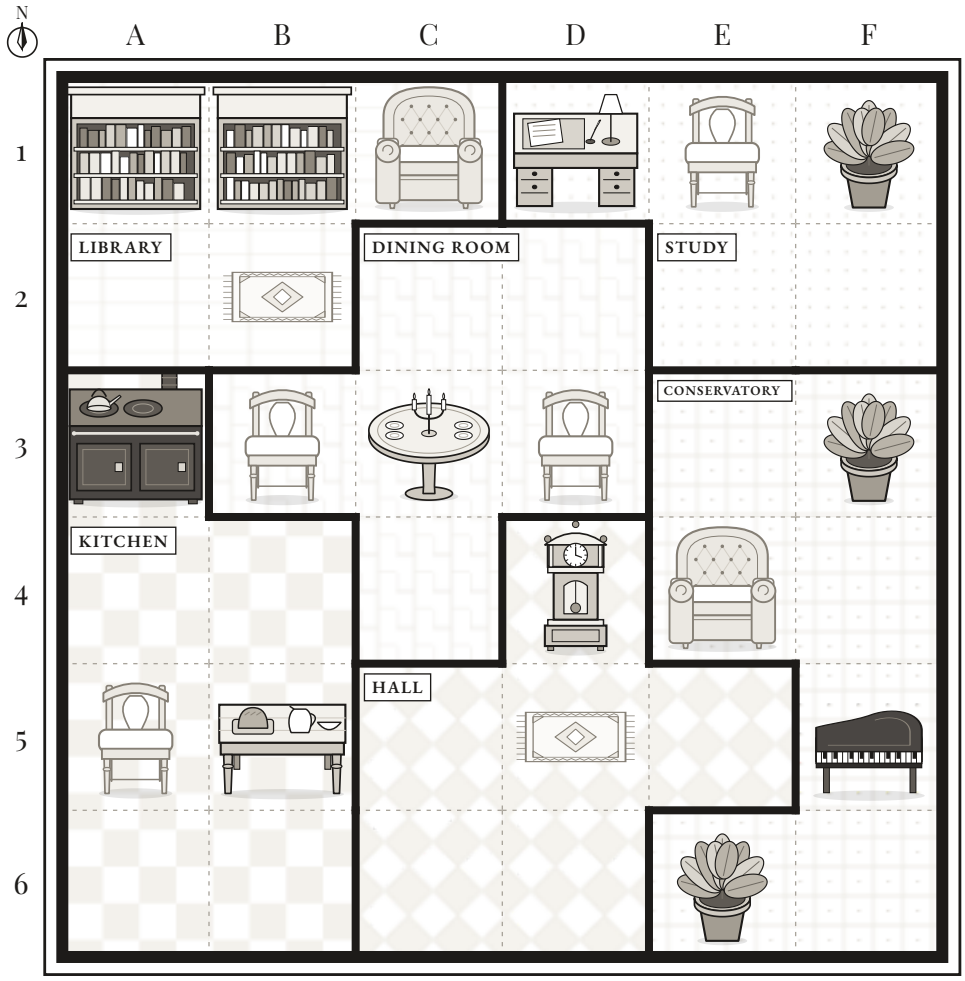
(F) **Colonel Barnaby Finch**, *an old army friend*
Owes Sir Edmund a great deal of money.

(P) **Miss Clara Pike**, *his secretary*
Typed the new will this morning.

(V) **Lady Violet Hawthorn**, *his wife*
Elegant and composed. For now, she inherits everything.

THE EVIDENCE

1. Dr Marlowe was in the Study.
2. Dr Marlowe was sitting on a chair.
3. Mr Gage sat on a chair.
4. Mr Gage was right next to the dining table.
5. Mr Gage was in the same column as the grandfather clock.
6. At that moment Miss Pike was in the Dining Room.
7. Colonel Finch was somewhere north of Miss Pike.
8. Lady Violet shared a column with the kitchen table.



YOUR ANSWER

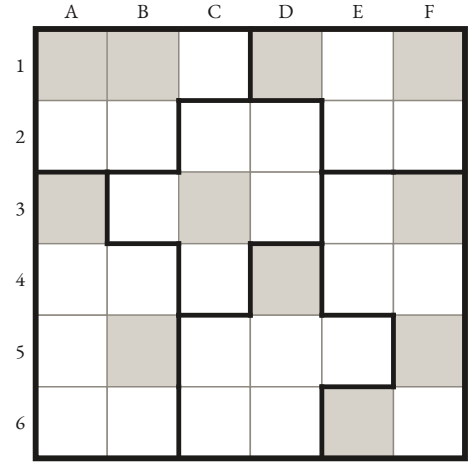
The killer

_____

The room

_____

WORK GRID



Nobody can be on a grey square.

FOR EVERY CASE

The Furniture

SIT OR STAND HERE


chair


armchair


sofa


bed


bench


stool


rug


pew

NOBODY CAN STAND HERE


altar


barrel


bass drum


bathtub


billiard table


boat


bookcase


bureau


card table


coat stand


costume hamper


desk


dining table


dresser


dressing table


fireplace


font


fountain


globe


gramophone


grandfather clock


harp


kennel


lectern


motor car


organ


piano


plant


rocking horse


sink


stack of crates


statue

stove

suit of armour

sundial

tomb

tree

urn

wardrobe

washstand

well

wine rack

work table

yew

ONE DRAWING, SEVERAL NAMES

Each plan uses the name that suits its room.

bathtub · washtub

stack of crates · stack of packing cases · stack of plate chests

work table · kitchen table · ironing table · tea table

dresser · lamp shelves · plate cupboard

wardrobe · gun cupboard · deed press · vestment press