# THE STRANGE DEATH OF AMOS ARBUCKLE

ENGLISH




WIZSUITE

A WHODUNIT LOGIC PUZZLE

# The Strange Death of Amos Arbuckle

**WizSuite**

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Puzzle design & logic certification by WizardsEye — www.wizsuite.io

# How to Solve This Puzzle

This is a logic grid puzzle: every clue is a true statement, and there is exactly one way to seat every suspect that satisfies all of them at once.

Each suspect occupies exactly one square — one per row, one per column. The key on each puzzle page shows which squares a suspect can take and which are blocked.

Work through the clues in order. Some pin a suspect directly to a row, column, or room. Others describe a suspect's position relative to another suspect or a landmark — use those to rule seats in or out.

There's no guessing required: every seat can be logically determined from the clues alone. If you find yourself guessing, re-read the clues you've already used — one of them rules out more than it first seems to.

# The Post-hole Digger Killing

*Mabel Purdy was found dead. Exactly one other person had been there.*

CASE #001

EASY

**HOW TO SOLVE** **CAN OCCUPY** **BLOCKED**

1. All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2. Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3. Then name the one other guest in the victim's room.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



5'5"

**WILMA RAINS**

Beside a **feed sack**.



5'4"

**CLARA VANCE**

I sat in a room where plants grew and in row three.



5'7"

**NELL DUNBAR**

I was in the **Stable** and in row 5.



5'11"

**EZRA TISDALE**

I was in a room for keeping animals and in the fifth column.



6'3"

**ELMER JESSUP**

Seat in the **Grain Silo**.



5'6"

**MABEL PURDY**

Killed with one other guest in the room.



5'3"

**PEARL COFFEY**

I was in the **Pantry** — in column 3.



5'8"

**LUTHER HOLLISTER**

I sat in row eight, column six.

# The Case of the Boat Anchor

*Errol Sokolov is dead, and exactly one other person stood in that room.*

CASE #002

EASY

**HOW TO SOLVE** — CAN OCCUPY — BLOCKED

1. All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2. Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3. Then name the one other guest in the victim's room.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



5'2"

**XIMENA JANKOWSKI**

In the **Boathouse** all evening.



6'0"

**ERROL SOKOLOV**

Found dead, south of Jankowski, with just one other guest in the room.



5'3"

**BREE ISHIKAWA**

I was in the **Mess Tent**, in the second column.



5'11"

**HIRO MOREAU**

The **1st column**.



5'9"

**KIRA ADEYEMI**

I was in row 4 and in column 3.



5'6"

**RAFAEL ALVAREZ**

I sat in row 2, column 6.



5'5"

**ELDBJØRG TVEIT**

I was in row six, column five.



5'7"

**DESMOND LINDHOLM**

I was in the **Craft Lodge**.

# The Trouble with the Iron Griddle

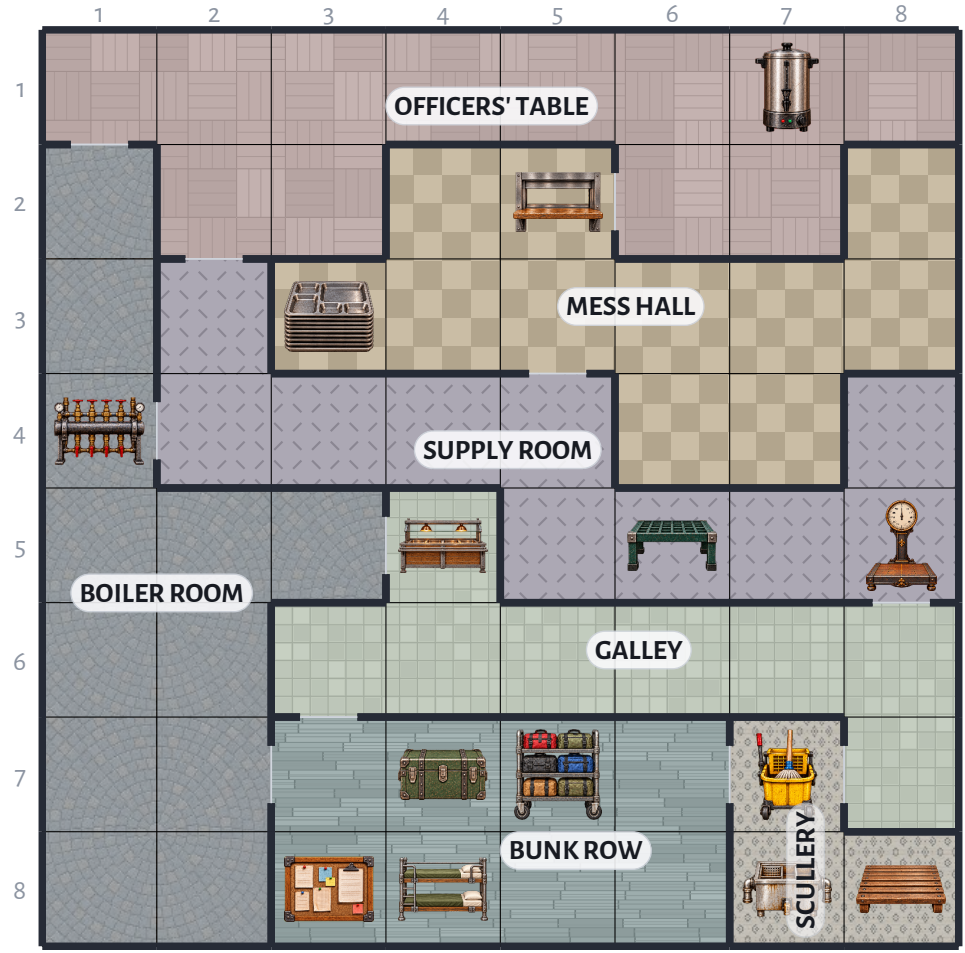
*Aurelio Jensen is dead, and exactly one other person stood in that room.*

CASE #003

MEDIUM

**HOW TO SOLVE** CAN OCCUPY BLOCKED

1 All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2 Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3 Then name the one other guest in the victim's room.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



5'3"

**MAGDA KOVAC**

My chair was in the **Mess Hall**.



5'9"

**LORENZO HALVORSEN**

I was in the **Mess Hall** and in the **6th column**.



6'0"

**FRANCO CERNY**

Did not leave the **Supply Room**.



5'8"

**LUCIA DUARTE**

I was in the first row — in a corner of the plan.



5'6"

**PENG RUIYING**

I sat in the sixth row — in the first column.



5'2"

**MAMIE CARTER**

Seated in the **Bunk Row**.



5'4"

**WANDA VARGAS**

I was in the **Supply Room** — in the **5th column**.



5'11"

**AURELIO JENSEN**

Killed, south of Peng, with one other guest in the room.

# The Last Hours of Vivienne Ingram

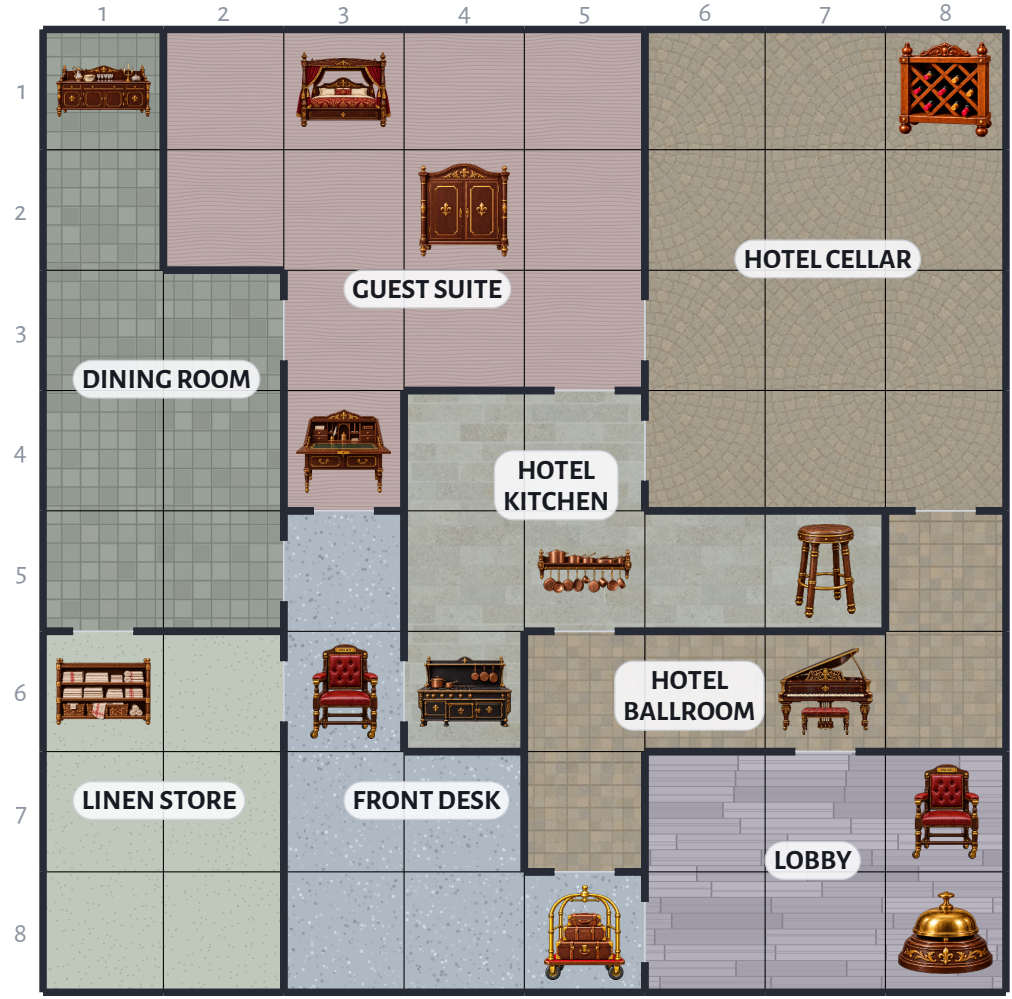
*Exactly one other guest was in the room when Vivienne Ingram died.*

CASE #004

MEDIUM

**HOW TO SOLVE** CAN OCCUPY BLOCKED

1. All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2. Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3. Then name the one other guest in the victim's room.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



5'8"

**ADELE JOLIVET**

I sat in row three of the **Guest Suite**.



5'6"

**STEFAN NAVARRE**

I sat in the **Hotel Kitchen**, in the **4th column**.



5'4"

**MOTRYA LYTVYN**

I was in a corner of the plan.



5'11"

**CASIMIR ALDINGTON**

I was in the **Dining Room** — in the fifth row.



5'2"

**ESTELLE CASTELLANE**

Passed the evening in the **Front Desk**.



5'9"

**VIVIENNE INGRAM**

Killed with one other guest in the room.



5'5"

**BERTRAM BELMONT**

The second row was where I sat.



5'3"

**GLORIA OSPINA**

I sat in the **Lobby** — in column seven.

# The Matter of Priya Langley

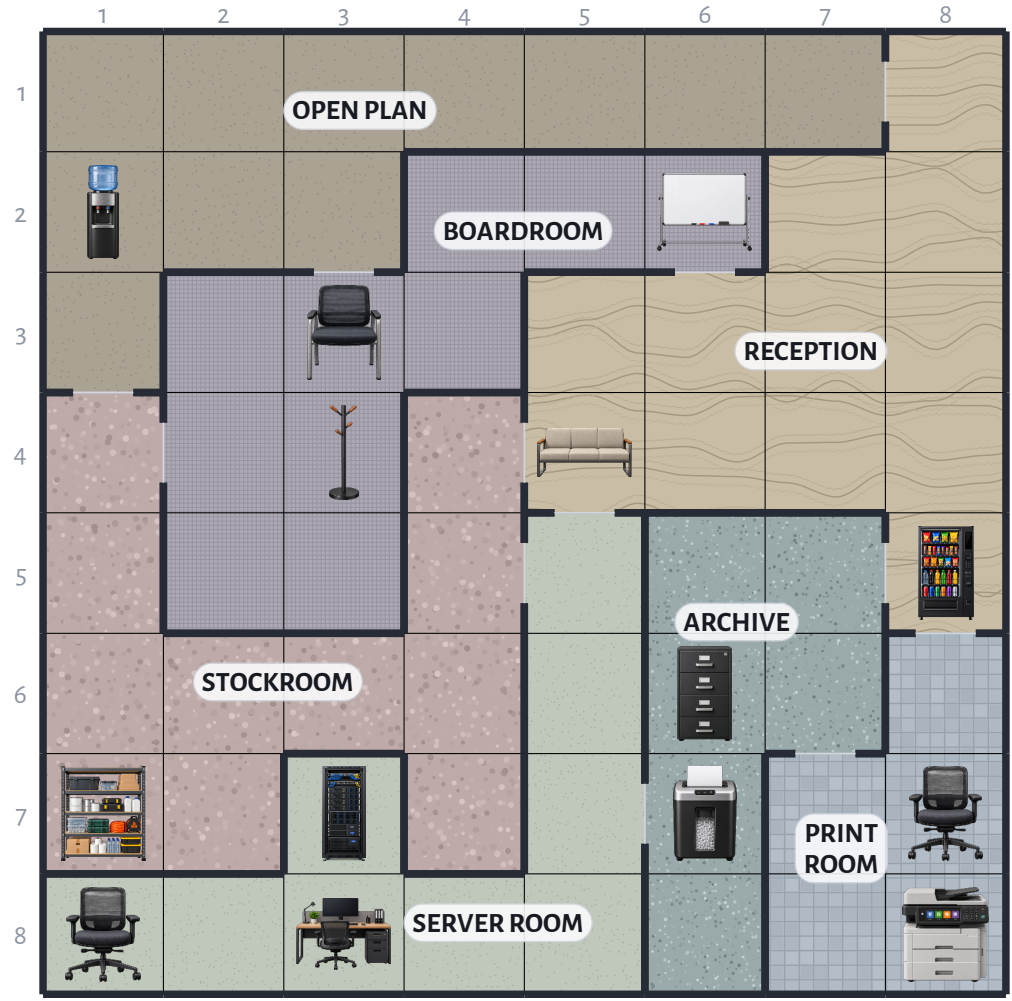
*Priya Langley died with exactly one other person in the room.*

CASE #005

MEDIUM

**HOW TO SOLVE** CAN OCCUPY BLOCKED

1. All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2. Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3. Then name the one other guest in the victim's room.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



6'0"

**STELLAN HENDRY**

I was in the **Open Plan** and in column four.



5'10"

**TERRENCE ISHAQ**

I sat in the **Print Room** — in column 8.



5'8"

**CASSANDRA MORAVEC**

I was inside the largest room.



5'6"

**YUKI QUINN**

I was in row 5 and in column 5.



5'9"

**OTIS EASTERBROOK**

I was sitting in row 7.



5'5"

**CLEMENTINE IYER**

Seen in the second column.



6'1"

**ARTURO OGUNDELE**

I remained in the **Boardroom**.



5'7"

**PRIYA LANGLEY**

Killed with one other guest in the room.

# The Last Hours of Maricica Stan

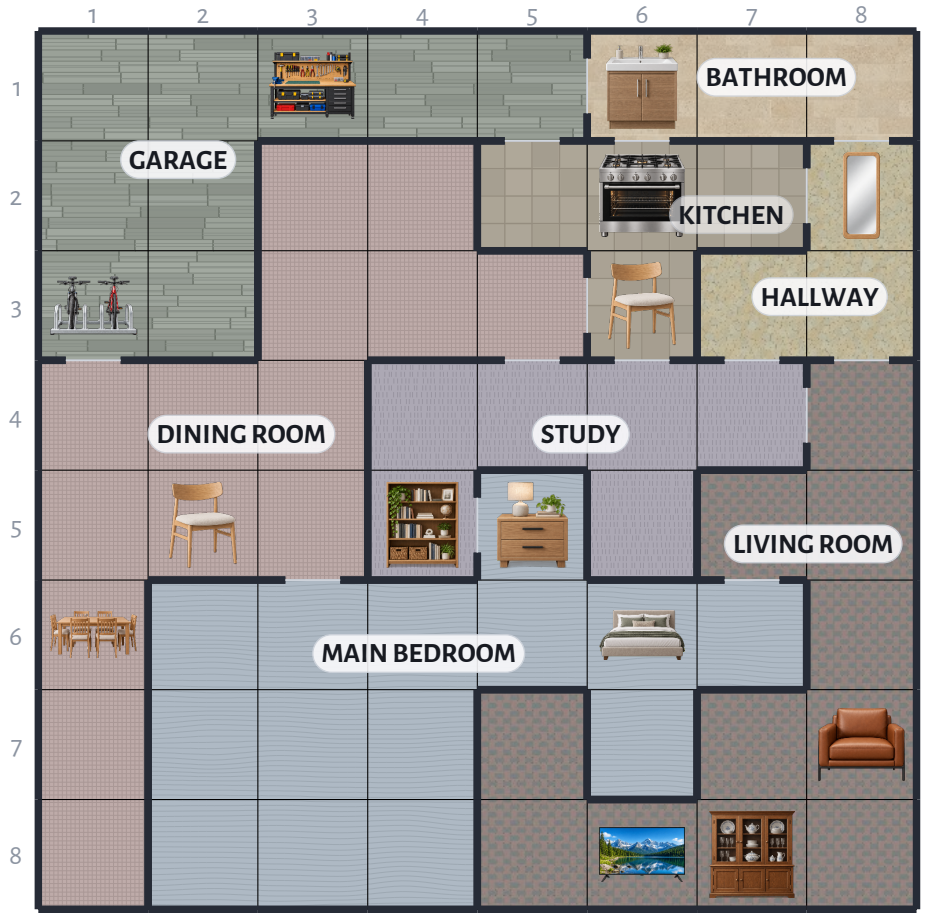
*Maricica Stan was killed with the heavy candlestick. Everyone denies touching it.*

**CASE #006**

**HARD**

**HOW TO SOLVE** **CAN OCCUPY** **BLOCKED**

1. All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2. Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3. Then work the evidence: the guest carrying the heavy candlestick is the murderer.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



6'1"

### DERMOT REDGRAVE

I sat in a corner of the plan, north of Dempsey.



5'10"

### HANNA PRENTICE

I sat in the **Garage**, south of Redgrave.



5'6"

### PILAR FAIRBOURNE

I sat in the **Study**, south of Eastwood.



5'4"

### ELOISE AINSWORTH

I was in the **Kitchen**, west of Fairbourne.



5'7"

### GRANT EASTWOOD

I sat against an outer wall, east of Brunner and north of Brunner.



5'9"

### MARICICA STAN

Killed with the **heavy candlestick**, south of Dempsey.



5'2"

### RESI BRUNNER

Seat in the **3rd column**.



6'2"

### BENEDICT DEMPSEY

Inside the **Living Room**.

### EVIDENCE — WHO CARRIED WHAT

**cast-iron doorstop · curtain tieback · fire poker · garden hoe · heavy candlestick · length of electrical flex · length of garden hose · length of washing line**

- Row 3 — **length of washing line**
- **7th-tallest — curtain tieback**
- **2nd-tallest — cast-iron doorstop**
- **6th-tallest — length of electrical flex**
- **4th-tallest — garden hoe**
- **Living Room — length of garden hose**
- Tallest — **fire poker**

# The Trouble with the Silver Hip Flask

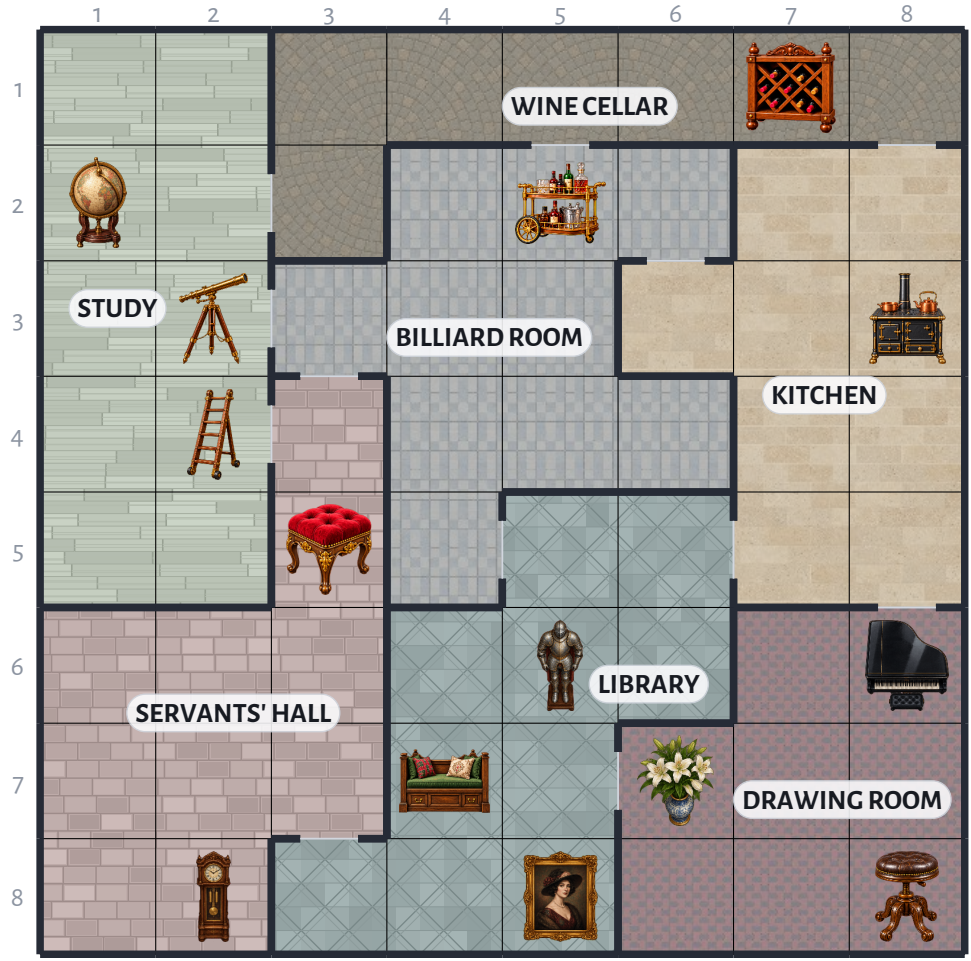
*Sven Rutherford died by the silver hip flask. One guest carried it.*

CASE #007

HARD

**HOW TO SOLVE** **CAN OCCUPY** **BLOCKED**

1. All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2. Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3. Then work the evidence: the guest carrying the silver hip flask is the murderer.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



5'10"

**VICTOR FENWICK**

The **3rd-tallest** guest sat in the **Study**.



5'11"

**SVEN RUTHERFORD**

Murdered with the **silver hip flask**, north of Hollis.



5'8"

**AMBROSE BELLINGHAM**

A **drinks trolley** was beside me.



5'2"

**ROSAMUND UNDERHILL**

I was in the **window seat** in the **Library** — north of Delamere.



5'5"

**ELENA DOYLE**

I was in row 4, south of Hollis and west of Hollis.



5'3"

**AGATHA HOLLIS**

I was in the sixth column of the **Kitchen**.



5'7"

**BAXTER DELAMERE**

Found east of Rutherford.



6'1"

**TOMAS VOSS**

I sat down in column 1.

**EVIDENCE — WHO CARRIED WHAT**

**carving knife · ceremonial dagger · hunting rifle · length of curtain cord · silver hip flask · silver letter opener · vial of laudanum · walking cane**

- **2nd-tallest — hunting rifle**
- **Kitchen — silver hip flask**

# The Jar of Kerosene Mystery

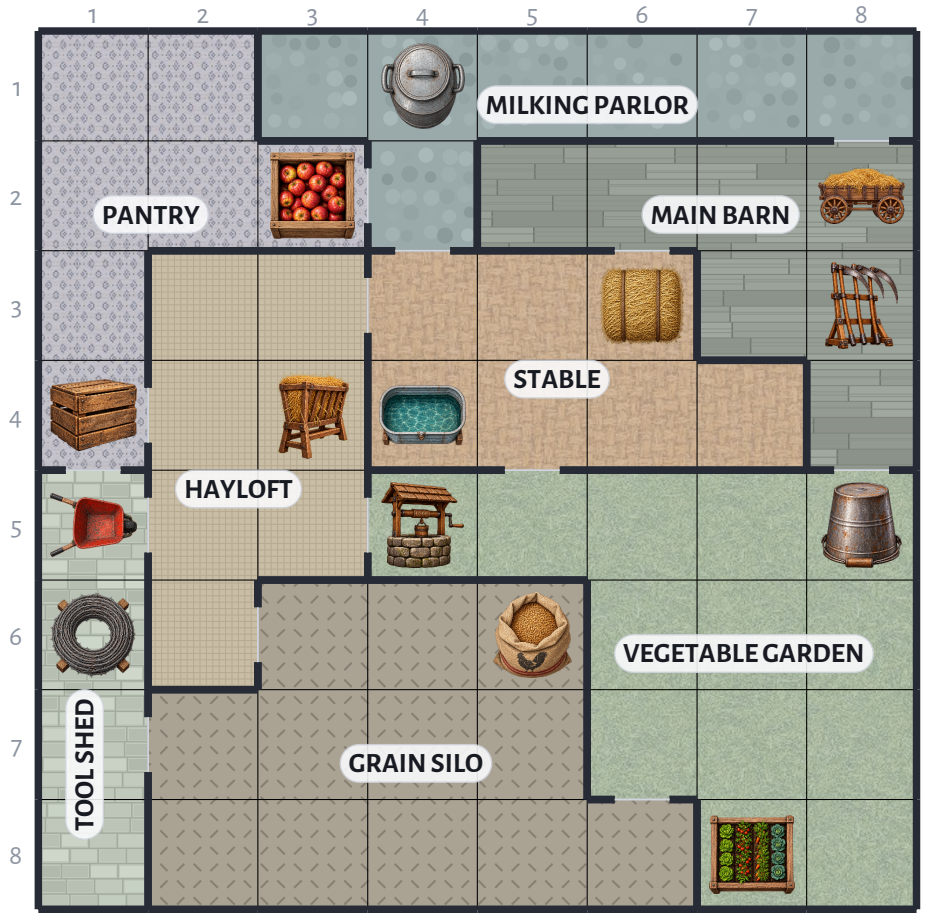
*The jar of kerosene was left where Abel Nash fell. Somebody carried it there.*

CASE #008

HARD

**HOW TO SOLVE** **CAN OCCUPY** **BLOCKED**

1. All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2. Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3. Then work the evidence: the guest carrying the jar of kerosene is the murderer.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



5'4"

**MABEL GARRITY**

North of Hollister, north of Harrow.



5'11"

**RUFUS HOLLISTER**

He sat in column 6, north of Eckhart.



5'7"

**JOSIAH ECKHART**

He sat in row 3 — in column 5.



6'1"

**ABEL NASH**

Killed with the **jar of kerosene**, east of Hollister.



5'2"

**DELLA ARBUCKLE**

Kept to the **Hayloft**.



5'5"

**LUTHER HARROW**

He was in the **Grain Silo** — south and east of Fenn.



5'6"

**NELL JESSUP**

She was south and west of Nash.



5'9"

**ELMER FENN**

He was in row 7 — in column 2, east of Garrity.

**EVIDENCE — WHO CARRIED WHAT**

**axe handle · bottle of pesticide · bottle of sheep dip · hoe · jar of kerosene · pickaxe · pruning shears · sickle**

- **Vegetable Garden — axe handle**
- **Grain Silo — bottle of pesticide**
- Row 5 — **pickaxe**
- Abel Nash — **hoe**
- Row 1 — **pruning shears**
- **6th-tallest — sickle**
- Column 5 — **bottle of sheep dip**

# The Matter of Delphine Lindholm

*Delphine Lindholm is dead. The room narrows it; the can of bear spray finishes it.*

CASE #009

EXPERT

**HOW TO SOLVE** **CAN OCCUPY** **BLOCKED**

1. All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2. Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3. Then cross both: in the victim's room, the one holding the can of bear spray.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



6'1"

**YUSUF BIANCHI**

Corner to corner with Nunez.



5'0"

**DELPHINE LINDHOLM**

Murdered with the **can of bear spray** in a crowded room.



5'3"

**MAEVE FERREIRA**

She was in the **Cabin Row**, and northwest of Lindgren as well.



5'5"

**TALIA NUNEZ**

She was in the **Boathouse** — diagonally next to Bergstrom.



5'10"

**JASPER LINDGREN**

He was in the **Storeroom** — northeast of Mwangi.



5'8"

**DASHIELL PETRAKIS**

He sat in the **Mess Tent** — diagonally next to Mwangi.



6'0"

**MATEO BERGSTROM**

He was with Petrakis in the **Mess Tent**.



5'11"

**HIRO MWANGI**

He sat west of Lindholm.

**EVIDENCE — WHO CARRIED WHAT**

**camp lantern · can of bear spray · can of insect repellent · fishing gaff · folding shovel · propane canister · tent stake · trekking pole**

- Yusuf Bianchi — **can of insect repellent**
- Column 5 — **can of bear spray**
- **Boathouse — camp lantern**
- Row 6 — **fishing gaff**

# The Yu Fengxian Affair

*The room where Yu Fengxian fell was full. The meat cleaver was in one hand.*

CASE #010

EXPERT

**HOW TO SOLVE** — CAN OCCUPY — BLOCKED

1. All 8 guests stand on open squares — one per row, one per column.
2. Take each card at its word. Where a card says nothing, the rest decide.
3. Then cross both: in the victim's room, the one holding the meat cleaver.




**THE MURDERER IS** _____



5'1"

**SIMONE PAVLIK**

She was in the **Galley**, north of Jensen.



5'6"

**RAVI JENSEN**

Seated beside a **coffee urn**.



5'7"

**YU FENGXIAN**

Killed with the **meat cleaver** while sitting south of Pavlik, in a crowded room.



5'10"

**MATTHIAS DRAGOMIR**

He spent the evening in the **Officers' Table**.



5'11"

**KAREL ALBESCU**

He was in row seven, with Yu in the **Scullery**.



5'0"

**LUCIA SZABO**

Diagonally next to Dragomir.



5'4"

**TERESA ESPOSITO**

She was in the third column, and south of Szabo as well.



6'0"

**AURELIO KOVAC**

He was with Albescu in the **Scullery**, north of Albescu.

**EVIDENCE — WHO CARRIED WHAT**

**bread knife · carving fork · length of rifle sling · meat cleaver · meat tenderizer · mess tin · rolling pin · steel serving tray**

- Matthias Dragomir — **steel serving tray**
- Ravi Jensen — **meat tenderizer**
- Column 8 — **carving fork**
- **8th-tallest — length of rifle sling**
- Simone Pavlik — **bread knife**
- Row 5 — **rolling pin**
- **4th-tallest — mess tin**

# Hints

Each hint places one more guest, in the order the puzzle can actually be worked out. Read only as far as you need — nothing later depends on a step you have not reached.

### Puzzle 1 — The Post-hole Digger Killing

1. Nell Dunbar is in row 5, column 4 — their own clue says so outright.

### Puzzle 2 — The Case of the Boat Anchor

1. Bree Ishikawa is in row 1, column 2 — their own clue says so outright.

### Puzzle 3 — The Trouble with the Iron Griddle

1. Peng Ruiying is in row 6, column 1 — their own clue says so outright.

### Puzzle 4 — The Last Hours of Vivienne Ingram

1. Motrya Lytvyn is in row 8, column 1 — their own clue says so outright.

### Puzzle 5 — The Matter of Priya Langley

1. Stellan Hendry is in row 1, column 4 — their own clue says so outright.

### Puzzle 6 — The Last Hours of Maricica Stan

1. Dermot Redgrave is in row 1, column 1 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

### Puzzle 7 — The Trouble with the Silver Hip Flask

1. Agatha Hollis is in row 3, column 6 — their own clue says so outright.

### Puzzle 8 — The Jar of Kerosene Mystery

1. Josiah Eckhart is in row 3, column 5 — their own clue says so outright.

### Puzzle 9 — The Matter of Delphine Lindholm

1. Talia Nunez is in row 3, column 5 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

### Puzzle 10 — The Yu Fengxian Affair

1. Simone Pavlik is in row 1, column 1 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

# Answer Key

Every solution below is the unique satisfying assignment for its puzzle — no other seating survives all the clues.

## Puzzle 1 — The Post-hole Digger Killing

**Culprit: Clara Vance — Clara Vance was the only other guest in the Vegetable Garden. Victim: Mabel Purdy, killed with the post-hole digger.**

Wilma Rains — row 1, column 2 (Hayloft), carrying the oil lantern

Mabel Purdy — row 2, column 7 (Vegetable Garden), carrying the shovel

Clara Vance — row 3, column 8 (Vegetable Garden), carrying the post-hole digger

Pearl Coffey — row 4, column 3 (Pantry), carrying the pickaxe

Nell Dunbar — row 5, column 4 (Stable), carrying the axe handle

Ezra Tisdale — row 6, column 5 (Stable), carrying the harness strap

Elmer Jessup — row 7, column 1 (Grain Silo), carrying the branding iron

Luther Hollister — row 8, column 6 (Stable), carrying the pitchfork

**Certified EASY — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (8 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by reading the clues one at a time, with no guessing at any point — every clue can be taken at face value and used on its own.

Techniques required: direct reading and elimination. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 4.

## Puzzle 2 — The Case of the Boat Anchor

**Culprit: Eldbjørg Tveit — Eldbjørg Tveit was the only other guest in the Cabin Row. Victim: Errol Sokolov, killed with the boat anchor.**

Bree Ishikawa — row 1, column 2 (Mess Tent), carrying the hatchet

Rafael Alvarez — row 2, column 6 (Mess Tent), carrying the tent mallet

Hiro Moreau — row 3, column 1 (Campfire Ring), carrying the cast-iron dutch oven

Kira Adeyemi — row 4, column 3 (Campfire Ring), carrying the aluminum canoe paddle

Ximena Jankowski — row 5, column 7 (Boathouse), carrying the splitting wedge

Eldbjørg Tveit — row 6, column 5 (Cabin Row), carrying the boat anchor

Errol Sokolov — row 7, column 4 (Cabin Row), carrying the length of climbing rope

Desmond Lindholm — row 8, column 8 (Craft Lodge), carrying the carabiner chain

**Certified EASY — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (8 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by reading the clues one at a time, with no guessing at any point — every clue can be taken at face value and used on its own.

Techniques required: direct reading and elimination. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 3.

## Puzzle 3 — The Trouble with the Iron Griddle

**Culprit: Peng Ruiying — Peng Ruiying was the only other guest in the Boiler Room. Victim: Aurelio Jensen, killed with the iron griddle.**

Lucia Duarte — row 1, column 8 (Officers' Table), carrying the length of butcher's twine

Magda Kovac — row 2, column 4 (Mess Hall), carrying the tin of lye

Lorenzo Halvorsen — row 3, column 6 (Mess Hall), carrying the fire extinguisher

Wanda Vargas — row 4, column 5 (Supply Room), carrying the cast-iron ladle

Franco Cerny — row 5, column 7 (Supply Room), carrying the coal shovel

Peng Ruiying — row 6, column 1 (Boiler Room), carrying the iron griddle

Mamie Carter — row 7, column 3 (Bunk Row), carrying the steel stockpot

Aurelio Jensen — row 8, column 2 (Boiler Room), carrying the bread knife

**Certified MEDIUM — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (18 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by crossing off what the clues rule out, with no guessing at any point. It also cannot be solved with anything simpler — that is what makes the MEDIUM label a measurement rather than an opinion.

Techniques required: direct reading and elimination. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 2.

## Puzzle 4 — The Last Hours of Vivienne Ingram

**Culprit: Bertram Belmont — Bertram Belmont was the only other guest in the Hotel Cellar. Victim: Vivienne Ingram, killed with the hat pin.**

Vivienne Ingram — row 1, column 6 (Hotel Cellar), carrying the champagne bottle

Bertram Belmont — row 2, column 8 (Hotel Cellar), carrying the hat pin

Adele Jolivet — row 3, column 5 (Guest Suite), carrying the brass room key

Stefan Navarre — row 4, column 4 (Hotel Kitchen), carrying the silver serving tray

Casimir Aldington — row 5, column 2 (Dining Room), carrying the bottle of sleeping draught

Estelle Castellane — row 6, column 3 (Front Desk), carrying the steam iron

Gloria Ospina — row 7, column 7 (Lobby), carrying the corkscrew

Motrya Lytvyn — row 8, column 1 (Linen Store), carrying the phial of digitalis

**Certified MEDIUM — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (9 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by crossing off what the clues rule out, with no guessing at any point. It also cannot be solved with anything simpler — that is what makes the MEDIUM label a measurement rather than an opinion.

Techniques required: direct reading and elimination. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 1.

## Puzzle 5 — The Matter of Priya Langley

**Culprit: Yuki Quinn — Yuki Quinn was the only other guest in the Server Room. Victim: Priya Langley, killed with the coil of network cable.**

Stellan Hendry — row 1, column 4 (Open Plan), carrying the heavy ring binder

Clementine Iyer — row 2, column 2 (Open Plan), carrying the bronze trophy

Arturo Ogundele — row 3, column 3 (Boardroom), carrying the power strip

Cassandra Moravec — row 4, column 6 (Reception), carrying the guillotine blade

Yuki Quinn — row 5, column 5 (Server Room), carrying the coil of network cable

Terrence Ishaq — row 6, column 8 (Print Room), carrying the pair of office scissors

Otis Easterbrook — row 7, column 7 (Print Room), carrying the monitor arm

Priya Langley — row 8, column 1 (Server Room), carrying the length of lanyard cord

**Certified MEDIUM — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (14 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by crossing off what the clues rule out, with no guessing at any point. It also cannot be solved with anything simpler — that is what makes the MEDIUM label a measurement rather than an opinion.

Techniques required: direct reading and elimination. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 1.

## Puzzle 6 — The Last Hours of Maricica Stan

**Culprit: Resi Brunner — Resi Brunner was carrying the heavy candlestick.**
**Victim: Maricica Stan, killed with the heavy candlestick.**

Dermot Redgrave — row 1, column 1 (Garage), carrying the cast-iron doorstop

Eloise Ainsworth — row 2, column 5 (Kitchen), carrying the curtain tieback

Hanna Prentice — row 3, column 2 (Garage), carrying the length of washing line

Grant Eastwood — row 4, column 8 (Living Room), carrying the length of garden hose

Pilar Fairbourne — row 5, column 6 (Study), carrying the length of electrical flex

Resi Brunner — row 6, column 3 (Main Bedroom), carrying the heavy candlestick

Benedict Dempsey — row 7, column 7 (Living Room), carrying the fire poker

Maricica Stan — row 8, column 4 (Main Bedroom), carrying the garden hoe

**Certified HARD — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (206 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by playing the clues against each other, with no guessing at any point. It also cannot be solved with anything simpler — that is what makes the HARD label a measurement rather than an opinion.

Techniques required: direct reading, elimination and relational deduction. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 4.

## Puzzle 7 — The Trouble with the Silver Hip Flask

**Culprit: Agatha Hollis — Agatha Hollis was carrying the silver hip flask.**

**Victim: Sven Rutherford, killed with the silver hip flask.**

Ambrose Bellingham — row 1, column 5 (Wine Cellar), carrying the vial of laudanum

Sven Rutherford — row 2, column 7 (Kitchen), carrying the hunting rifle

Agatha Hollis — row 3, column 6 (Kitchen), carrying the silver hip flask

Elena Doyle — row 4, column 3 (Servants' Hall), carrying the carving knife

Victor Fenwick — row 5, column 2 (Study), carrying the walking cane

Tomas Voss — row 6, column 1 (Servants' Hall), carrying the length of curtain cord

Rosamund Underhill — row 7, column 4 (Library), carrying the silver letter opener

Baxter Delamere — row 8, column 8 (Drawing Room), carrying the ceremonial dagger

**Certified HARD — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (50 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by playing the clues against each other, with no guessing at any point. It also cannot be solved with anything simpler — that is what makes the HARD label a measurement rather than an opinion.

Techniques required: direct reading, elimination and relational deduction. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 3.

## Puzzle 8 — The Jar of Kerosene Mystery

**Culprit: Rufus Hollister — Rufus Hollister was carrying the jar of kerosene.**
**Victim: Abel Nash, killed with the jar of kerosene.**

Mabel Garrity — row 1, column 1 (Pantry), carrying the pruning shears

Rufus Hollister — row 2, column 6 (Main Barn), carrying the jar of kerosene

Josiah Eckhart — row 3, column 5 (Stable), carrying the bottle of sheep dip

Abel Nash — row 4, column 8 (Main Barn), carrying the hoe

Della Arbuckle — row 5, column 3 (Hayloft), carrying the pickaxe

Nell Jessup — row 6, column 7 (Vegetable Garden), carrying the axe handle

Elmer Fenn — row 7, column 2 (Grain Silo), carrying the bottle of pesticide

Luther Harrow — row 8, column 4 (Grain Silo), carrying the sickle

**Certified HARD — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (34 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by playing the clues against each other, with no guessing at any point. It also cannot be solved with anything simpler — that is what makes the HARD label a measurement rather than an opinion.

Techniques required: direct reading, elimination and relational deduction. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 4.

## Puzzle 9 — The Matter of Delphine Lindholm

**Culprit: Talia Nunez — Talia Nunez was in the Boathouse and was the one there carrying the can of bear spray. Victim: Delphine Lindholm, killed with the can of bear spray.**

Delphine Lindholm — row 1, column 7 (Boathouse), carrying the camp lantern

Yusuf Bianchi — row 2, column 6 (Boathouse), carrying the can of insect repellent

Talia Nunez — row 3, column 5 (Boathouse), carrying the can of bear spray

Mateo Bergstrom — row 4, column 4 (Mess Tent), carrying the trekking pole

Maeve Ferreira — row 5, column 1 (Cabin Row), carrying the propane canister

Jasper Lindgren — row 6, column 8 (Storeroom), carrying the fishing gaff

Dashiell Petrakis — row 7, column 3 (Mess Tent), carrying the tent stake

Hiro Mwangi — row 8, column 2 (Cabin Row), carrying the folding shovel

**Certified EXPERT — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (98,472 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by carrying the evidence back into the seating, with no guessing at any point. It also cannot be solved with anything simpler — that is what makes the EXPERT label a measurement rather than an opinion.

Techniques required: direct reading, elimination, relational deduction and cross-referencing the evidence. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 5.

## Puzzle 10 — The Yu Fengxian Affair

**Culprit: Aurelio Kovac — Aurelio Kovac was in the Scullery and was the one there carrying the meat cleaver. Victim: Yu Fengxian, killed with the meat cleaver.**

Simone Pavlik — row 1, column 1 (Galley), carrying the bread knife

Ravi Jensen — row 2, column 2 (Galley), carrying the meat tenderizer

Lucia Szabo — row 3, column 5 (Cold Store), carrying the length of rifle sling

Matthias Dragomir — row 4, column 4 (Officers' Table), carrying the steel serving tray

Tereza Esposito — row 5, column 3 (Officers' Table), carrying the rolling pin

Aurelio Kovac — row 6, column 7 (Scullery), carrying the meat cleaver

Karel Albescu — row 7, column 8 (Scullery), carrying the carving fork

Yu Fengxian — row 8, column 6 (Scullery), carrying the mess tin

**Certified EXPERT — one solution, reachable by logic alone.**

Exactly one seating satisfies every clue — proved, not assumed. A search ruled out every other arrangement the clues allow (197 checked before only one was left standing).

It can be solved by carrying the evidence back into the seating, with no guessing at any point. It also cannot be solved with anything simpler — that is what makes the EXPERT label a measurement rather than an opinion.

Techniques required: direct reading, elimination, relational deduction and cross-referencing the evidence. The longest run of deductions that follow from one another is 3.

# How Each Puzzle Is Solved

One route through each case, step by step. It is not the only order that works — it is an order that does, with every step justified by the clues and no guessing at any point.

### Puzzle 1 — The Post-hole Digger Killing

1. Nell Dunbar is in row 5, column 4 — their own clue says so outright.

2. Luther Hollister is in row 8, column 6 — their own clue says so outright.

3. Clara Vance is in row 3, column 8 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

4. Pearl Coffey is in row 4, column 3 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

5. Wilma Rains is in row 1, column 2 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

6. Ezra Tisdale is in row 6, column 5 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

7. Elmer Jessup is in row 7, column 1 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

8. Mabel Purdy is in row 2, column 7 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

### Puzzle 2 — The Case of the Boat Anchor

1. Bree Ishikawa is in row 1, column 2 — their own clue says so outright.

2. Rafael Alvarez is in row 2, column 6 — their own clue says so outright.

3. Kira Adeyemi is in row 4, column 3 — their own clue says so outright.

4. Eldbjørg Tveit is in row 6, column 5 — their own clue says so outright.

5. Ximena Jankowski is in row 5, column 7 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

6. Desmond Lindholm is in row 8, column 8 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

7. Hiro Moreau is in row 3, column 1 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

8. Errol Sokolov is in row 7, column 4 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

### Puzzle 3 — The Trouble with the Iron Griddle

1. Peng Ruiying is in row 6, column 1 — their own clue says so outright.

2. Lucia Duarte is in row 1, column 8 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

3. Magda Kovac is in row 2, column 4 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

4. Mamie Carter is in row 7, column 3 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

5. Franco Cerny is in row 5, column 7 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

6. Aurelio Jensen is in row 8, column 2 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

7. Wanda Vargas is in row 4, column 5 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

8. Lorenzo Halvorsen is in row 3, column 6 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

### Puzzle 4 — The Last Hours of Vivienne Ingram

1. Motrya Lytvyn is in row 8, column 1 — their own clue says so outright.

2. Casimir Aldington is in row 5, column 2 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

3. Gloria Ospina is in row 7, column 7 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

4. Bertram Belmont is in row 2, column 8 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

5. Stefan Navarre is in row 4, column 4 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

6. Estelle Castellane is in row 6, column 3 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

7. Vivienne Ingram is in row 1, column 6 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

8. Adele Jolivet is in row 3, column 5 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

### Puzzle 5 — The Matter of Priya Langley

1. Stellan Hendry is in row 1, column 4 — their own clue says so outright.

2. Yuki Quinn is in row 5, column 5 — their own clue says so outright.

3. Arturo Ogundele is in row 3, column 3 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

4. Otis Easterbrook is in row 7, column 7 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

5. Cassandra Moravec is in row 4, column 6 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

6. Terrence Ishaq is in row 6, column 8 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

7. Priya Langley is in row 8, column 1 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

8. Clementine Iyer is in row 2, column 2 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

## Puzzle 6 — The Last Hours of Maricica Stan

1. Dermot Redgrave is in row 1, column 1 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

2. Pilar Fairbourne is in row 5, column 6 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

3. Eloise Ainsworth is in row 2, column 5 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

4. Hanna Prentice is in row 3, column 2 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

5. Benedict Dempsey is in row 7, column 7 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

6. Maricica Stan is in row 8, column 4 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

7. Resi Brunner is in row 6, column 3 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

8. Grant Eastwood is in row 4, column 8 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

## Puzzle 7 — The Trouble with the Silver Hip Flask

1. Agatha Hollis is in row 3, column 6 — their own clue says so outright.

2. Rosamund Underhill is in row 7, column 4 — their own clue says so outright.

3. Ambrose Bellingham is in row 1, column 5 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

4. Elena Doyle is in row 4, column 3 — playing their clue against another guest's

leaves one square.

5. Victor Fenwick is in row 5, column 2 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

6. Baxter Delamere is in row 8, column 8 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

7. Sven Rutherford is in row 2, column 7 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

8. Tomas Voss is in row 6, column 1 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

### Puzzle 8 — The Jar of Kerosene Mystery

1. Josiah Eckhart is in row 3, column 5 — their own clue says so outright.

2. Elmer Fenn is in row 7, column 2 — their own clue says so outright.

3. Della Arbuckle is in row 5, column 3 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

4. Luther Harrow is in row 8, column 4 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

5. Rufus Hollister is in row 2, column 6 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

6. Nell Jessup is in row 6, column 7 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

7. Abel Nash is in row 4, column 8 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

8. Mabel Garrity is in row 1, column 1 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

### Puzzle 9 — The Matter of Delphine Lindholm

1. Talia Nunez is in row 3, column 5 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

2. Dashiell Petrakis is in row 7, column 3 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

3. Mateo Bergstrom is in row 4, column 4 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

4. Yusuf Bianchi is in row 2, column 6 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

5. Maeve Ferreira is in row 5, column 1 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

6. Delphine Lindholm is in row 1, column 7 — the evidence pins what they carried, and that fixes where they stood.

7. Jasper Lindgren is in row 6, column 8 — the evidence pins what they carried, and that fixes where they stood.

8. Hiro Mwangi is in row 8, column 2 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

### Puzzle 10 — The Yu Fengxian Affair

1. Simone Pavlik is in row 1, column 1 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

2. Aurelio Kovac is in row 6, column 7 — playing their clue against another guest's leaves one square.

3. Ravi Jensen is in row 2, column 2 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

4. Tereza Esposito is in row 5, column 3 — the evidence pins what they carried, and that fixes where they stood.

5. Karel Albescu is in row 7, column 8 — the evidence pins what they carried, and that fixes where they stood.

6. Lucia Szabo is in row 3, column 5 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

7. Matthias Dragomir is in row 4, column 4 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.

8. Yu Fengxian is in row 8, column 6 — every other square is ruled out by where the others must be.