

MISS PELL'S CASE OF THE WEEK · NO. 2

The Answer: Mischief Night

Here is the case again, and then its answer one deduction at a time, with a picture of the plan after each step. In the pictures, **yellow** squares are where the suspect in question could still be, **red crosses** are what that step has just ruled out, and **initials** mark suspects already placed.

N
↑

C1C2C3C4C5C6

R1						HALL
R2						
R3	LIBRARY					
R4						
R5				BUTLER'S PANTRY		
R6	GALLERY					
						

THE SUSPECTS













1. Nora
a witch's hat
a monocle

2. Sam
a monocle
a beard

3. Peter
a top hat
spectacles
a beard

4. Ivy
a witch's hat
spectacles

5. Jack
a witch's hat
a beard

6. Bernard
spectacles
a beard

The scarecrow had been carried in from the garden, so that it could come to the party too. When the lanterns were lit again, Ursula lay in the Library.

THE CLUES

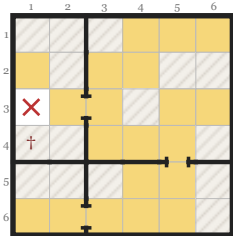
- 1. Nora was not beside the body.
- 2. Ivy was beside a scarecrow.
- 3. Sam was in the fifth row.
- 4. Peter was in the top row.
- 5. Bernard was not beside a candle stand.
- 6. Jack was in the second column.

GENERAL CLUES

- 7. The person in the rightmost column had a beard.
- 8. Of the people in the Hall, exactly three wore spectacles.

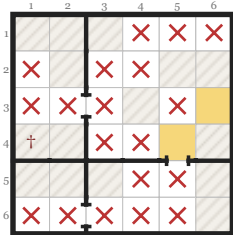
THE MURDERER _____

The answer, step by step

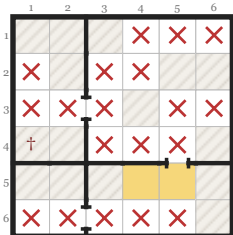


1 Clue 1: Nora has 20 squares left.

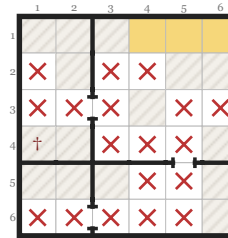
Ruling out. A statement that says where a guest was not is still a statement: cross those squares off.



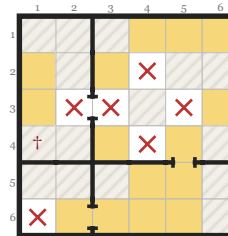
2 Clue 2: Ivy must be in the Hall.



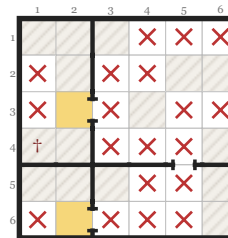
3 Clue 3: Sam must be somewhere in row 5.



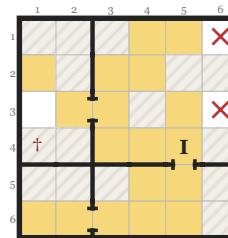
4 Clue 4: Peter must be somewhere in row 1.



5 Clue 5: Bernard has 15 squares left.

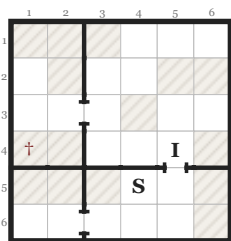


6 Clue 6: Jack must be somewhere in column 2.



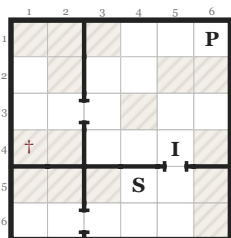
7 Clue 7 settles it: Ivy is at R4C5.

What they wore. Statements about hats, spectacles, monocles and beards refer to the lineup. Work out who they can be about first, then where.

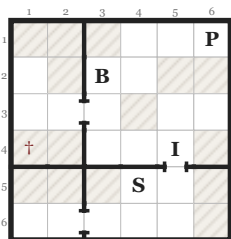


8 Sam has only one square left: R5C4.

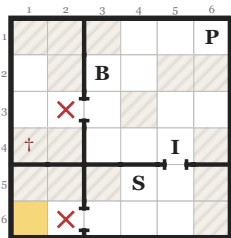
One square left. When everything else has been ruled out for a guest, the square that remains is theirs.



9 Peter has only one square left: R1C6.

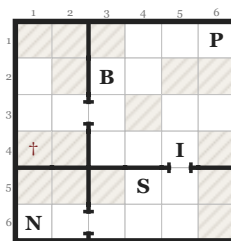


10 Clue 8 settles it: Bernard is at R2C3.

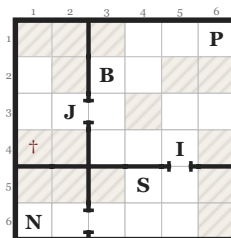


11 Nora is the only suspect who can still stand in column 1, so she must be somewhere in it.

The only one who fits. Every row and column must hold exactly one guest. If only one guest can still stand anywhere in a line, they must stand there.



12 Nora has only one square left: R6C1.



13 Only one square is left for Jack, so Jack is at R3C2.

With the grid full, only Jack was in the Library with Ursula. Jack is the murderer.

The next case

Every Friday, Miss Pell posts a new case at **whereaboutspuzzles.com**. Fifty more are in her ledger, **Whereabouts: Murder Sudoku — 50 Murder Mysteries from Ashcombe Manor**, from spring to winter.