

MISS PELL'S CASE OF THE WEEK · NO. 3

The Answer: The Churchyard Cat

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.



THE SUSPECTS

- | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| 1. Thomas
a witch's hat
a monocle
a beard | 2. Jack
a witch's hat
a beard | 3. Kit
a top hat
a beard | 4. Peter
a top hat
spectacles
a beard | 5. Douglas
a monocle
a beard | 6. Martin
a witch's hat
a beard | 7. Lucy
a top hat
spectacles |

A black cat had followed the club in at the lych gate, and nobody could catch it. When the lanterns were lit again, Clara lay in the Sexton's Hut.

THE CLUES

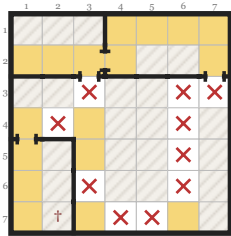
- 1. Kit was not beside a gravestone.
- 2. Thomas was one row south and two columns east of Martin.
- 3. Jack was in the second column.
- 4. Peter was in the fourth column.
- 5. Douglas could not see the mausoleum.
- 6. Lucy was north of Kit.
- 7. Martin was east of Peter.

GENERAL CLUES

- 8. Of the people beside a bench, exactly one wore a monocle.

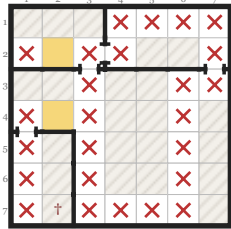
THE MURDERER _____

The answer, step by step

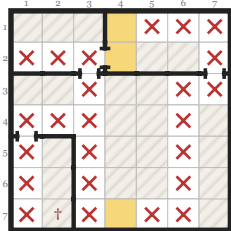


1 Clue 1: Kit has 17 squares left.

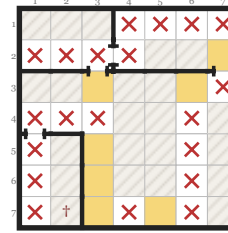
Ruling out. A statement that says where a guest was not is still a statement: cross those squares off.



2 Clue 3: Jack must be somewhere in column 2.

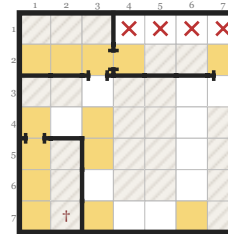


3 Clue 4: Peter must be somewhere in column 4.

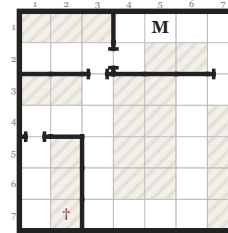


4 Clue 2: Thomas has 7 squares left, and Martin has 7 squares left.

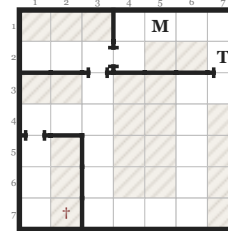
Two guests at once. A statement about two guests limits both. Wherever one of them cannot be, the other's options shrink too.



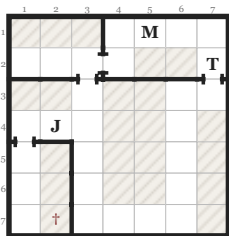
5 Clue 6: Kit has 13 squares left, and Lucy has 22 squares left.



6 Clue 7 settles it: Martin is at R1C5.

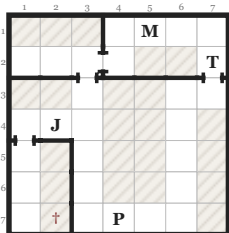


7 Clue 2 settles it: Thomas is at R2C7.

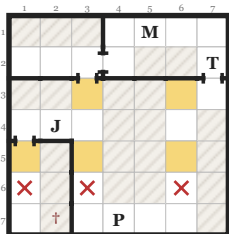


8 Jack has only one square left: R4C2.

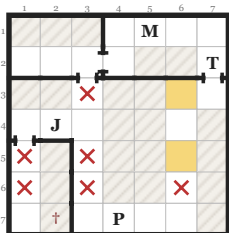
One square left. When everything else has been ruled out for a guest, the square that remains is theirs.



9 Peter has only one square left: R7C4.

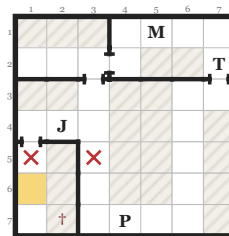


10 Clue 6: Lucy has 5 squares left.



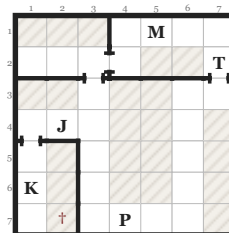
11 Clue 8: Douglas must be somewhere in column 6.

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

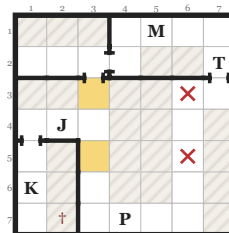


12 Kit is the only suspect who can still stand in row 6, so they must be somewhere in it.

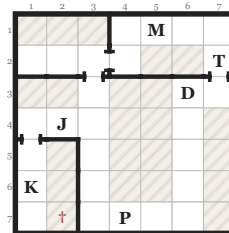
The only one who fits. Every row and column must hold exactly one guest. If only one guest can still stand anywhere in a line, they must stand there.



13 Kit has only one square left: R6C1.

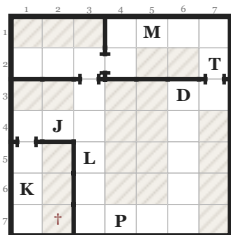


14 Lucy is the only suspect who can still stand in column 3, so she must be somewhere in it.



15 Clue 5 settles it: Douglas is at R3C6.

Lines of sight. A guest sees along their row and column, never diagonally, until a wall or an outlined piece blocks the view. Check each square they might use.



16 Only one square is left for Lucy, so Lucy is at R5C3.

With the grid full, only Kit was in the Sexton's Hut with Clara. Kit 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.