MISS PELL'S CASE OF THE WEEK · NO. 5

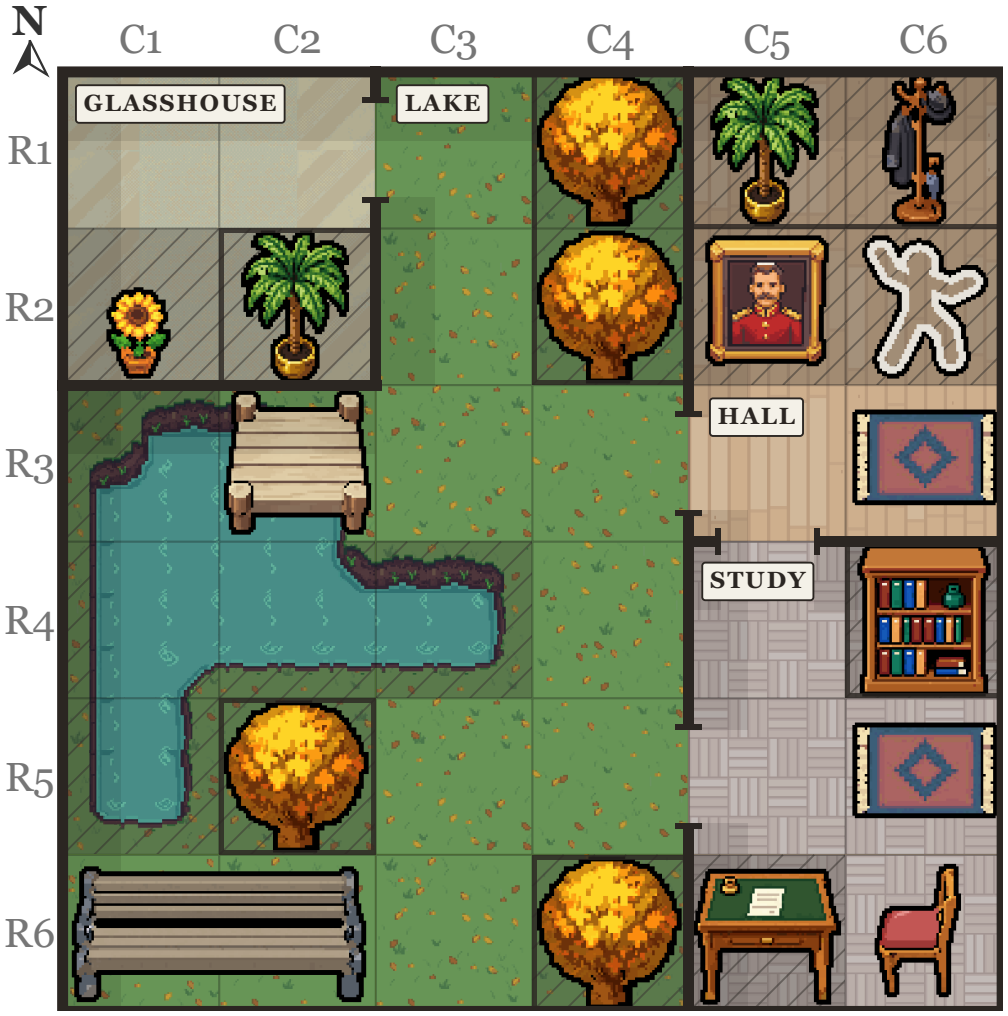
# The Answer: Mist on the Lake

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.

# Mist on the Lake

GENTLE

SOLVED STEP BY STEP ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES




*A gray November evening, with mist on the lake. When the lamps came back on, Violet lay in the Hall.*

## THE CLUES

1. Peter was beside a potted palm.
2. Grace was at the Lake.
3. Robin was in the second row.
4. Thomas was beside the water.
5. Agatha was **not** beside a chair.
6. Kit was beside a rug.

## GENERAL CLUES

7. The person in the fourth column wore **no** bowler.

## THE SUSPECTS

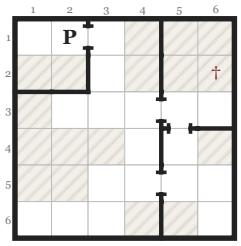


1. Agatha
   a fedora
   spectacles
2. Peter
   a bowler
   spectacles
   a beard
3. Robin
   a fedora
   spectacles
   a beard
4. Thomas
   a fedora
   a monocle
   a beard
5. Grace
   a bowler
   a monocle
6. Kit
   a bowler
   a beard

## THE MURDERER

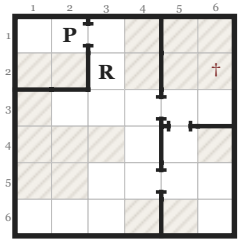
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## The answer, step by step

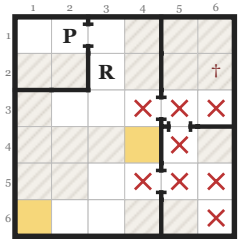



**1** Clue 1 settles it: Peter is at R1C2.

> **Reading a statement exactly.** Some statements name a square outright, or leave only one square the plan allows.

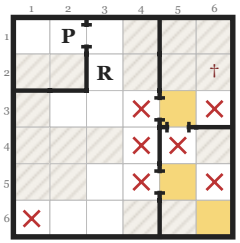



**2** Clue 3 settles it: Robin is at R2C3.

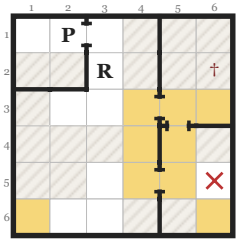



**3** Clue 4: Thomas must be at the Lake.

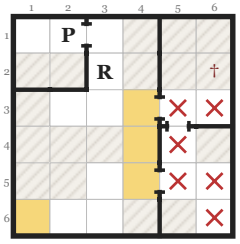
> **Ruling out.** A statement that says where a guest was not is still a statement: cross those squares off.



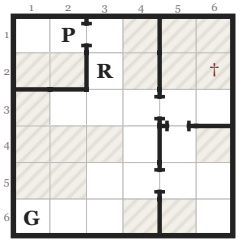

**4** Clue 6: Kit must be at R3C5 or R5C5 or R6C6.




**5** Clue 5: Agatha has 9 squares left.

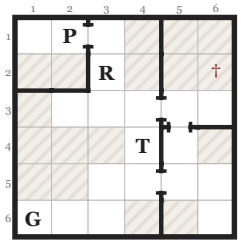



**6** Clue 2: Grace must be at the Lake.



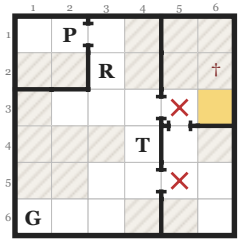

**7** Clue 7 settles it: Grace is at R6C1.

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



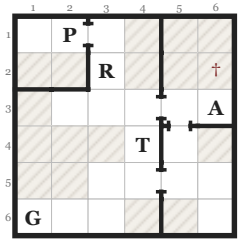

**8** Thomas has only one square left: R4C4.

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

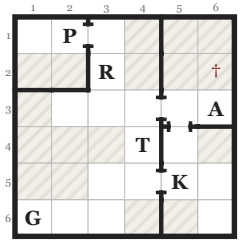



**9** Agatha is the only suspect who can still stand in column 6, so she must be somewhere in it.

> **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.




**10** Agatha has only one square left: R3C6.




**11** Only one square is left for Kit, so Kit is at R5C5.

*With the grid full, only Agatha was in the Hall with Violet. Agatha 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.