MISS PELL'S CASE OF THE WEEK · NO. 5

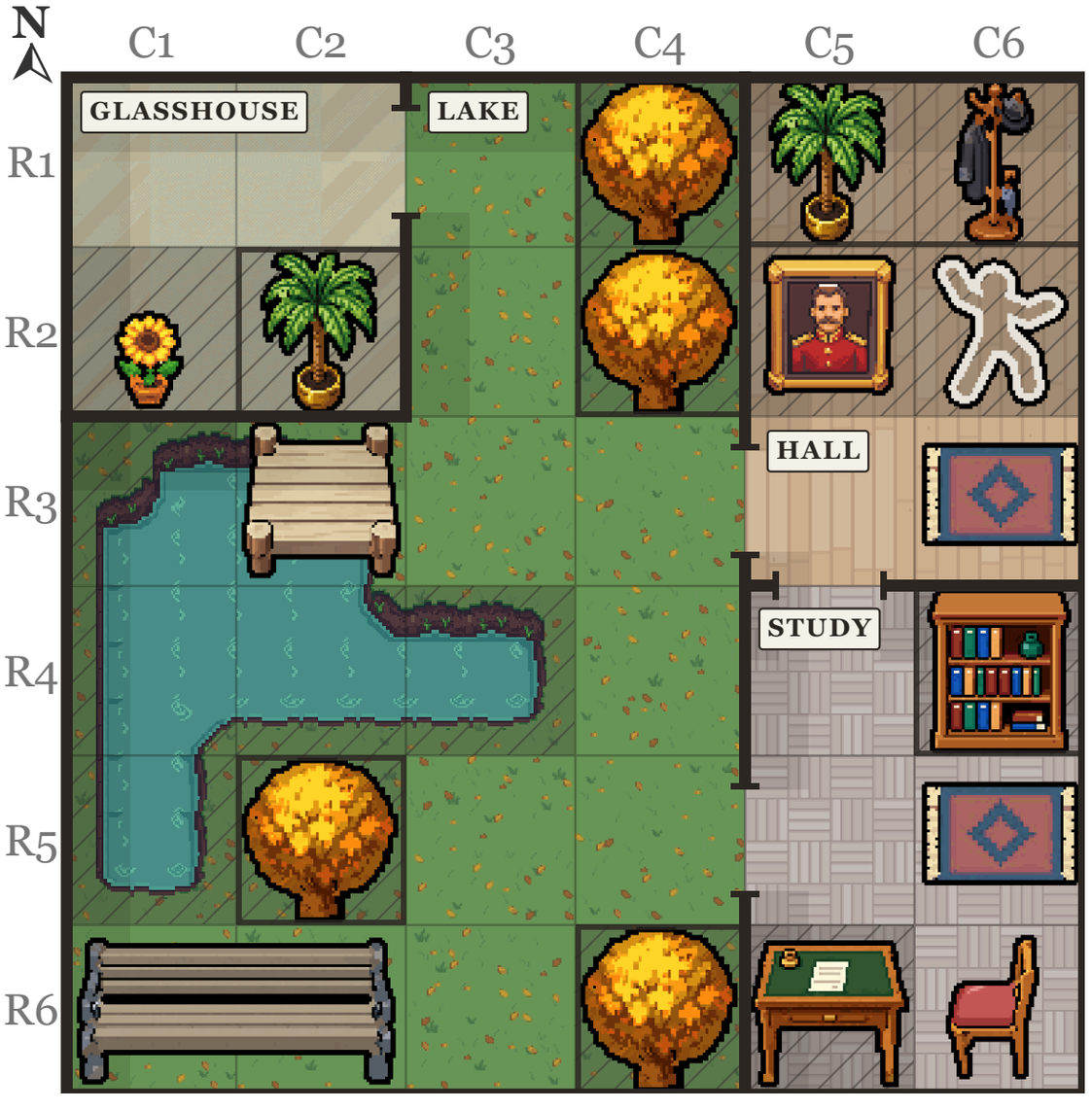
The Answer: Mist on the Lake

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.

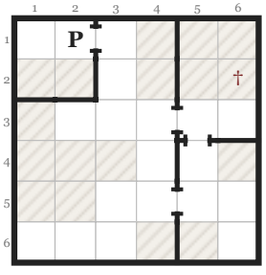
THE SUSPECTS



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

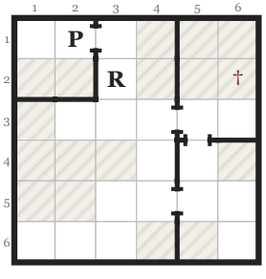
THE MURDERER

The answer, step by step

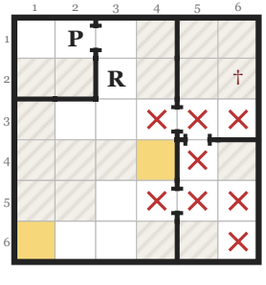


1 Clue 1 settles it: Peter is at R1C2.

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

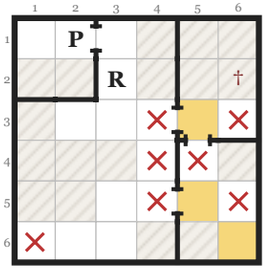


2 Clue 3 settles it: Robin is at R2C3.

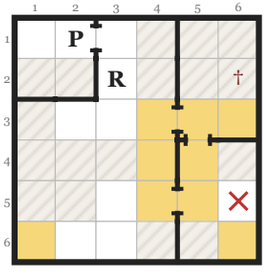


3 Clue 4: Thomas must be at the Lake.

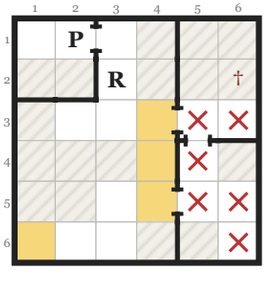
> **Ruling out.** A statement that says where a guest was not is still a statement: cross those squares off.



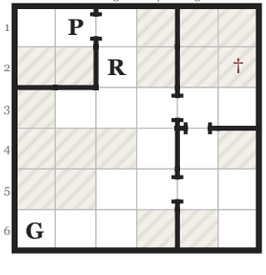
4 Clue 6: Kit must be at R3C5 or R5C5 or R6C6.



5 Clue 5: Agatha has 9 squares left.

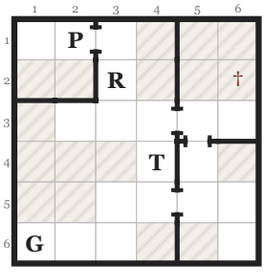


6 Clue 2: Grace must be at the Lake.



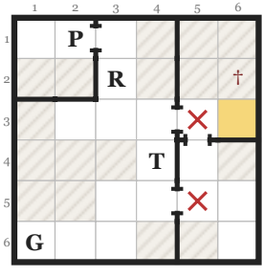
7 Clue 7 settles it: Grace is at R6C1.

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



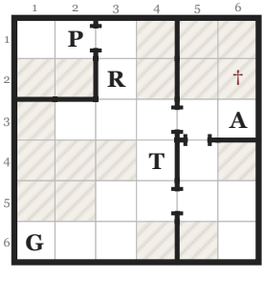
8 Thomas has only one square left: R4C4.

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

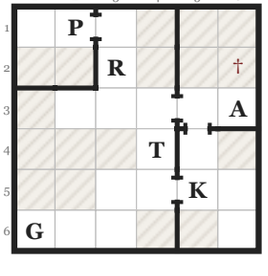


9 Agatha is the only suspect who can still stand in column 6, so she must be somewhere in it.

> **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.