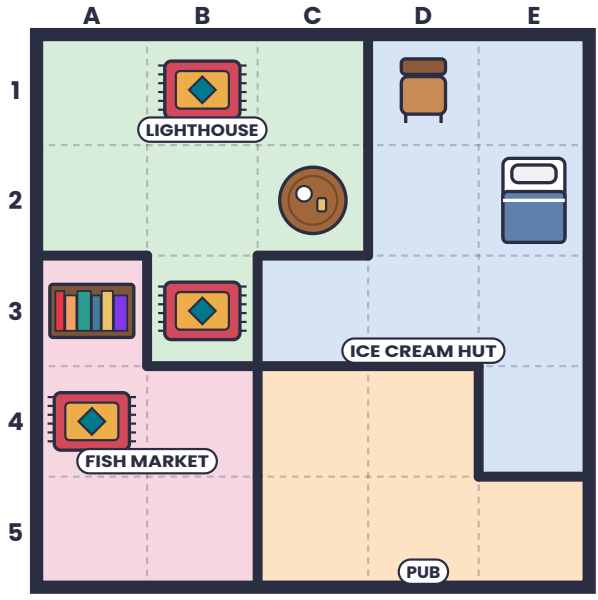
CASE 1 The Crab Pot

★☆☆☆☆ Pebblecombe-on-Sea · 5×5

Mr Pemberton swore his crab pots were the finest in Pebblecombe, and told everyone so, loudly, between the Pub and the Fish Market. Today the crabs are keeping very quiet, and so, for once, is Mr Pemberton.



WITNESS STATEMENTS



Vera Kowalski
She was in column B.



Mabel Stokes
She was in the Pub. She was in column C.



Umar Haddad
He was standing on a rug.

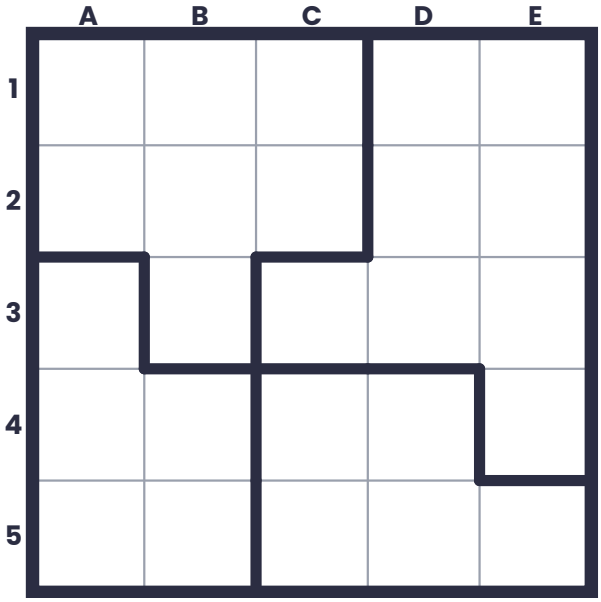


Olive Fairweather
She was beside a chair.



Mr Pemberton THE VICTIM
The body was beside a bed.
The body was in row 3.

DETECTIVE'S NOTEBOOK



The murderer was:

One person per row and column.
The killer is the only other person in the victim's room.

Solution: page 104

Reading the Statements

"in the Library"	Their square is inside that room. Thick walls show where rooms begin and end.
"beside a plant"	A square directly above, below, left or right of them holds a plant. Diagonals don't count.
"sitting on a chair"	Their own square holds a chair (likewise standing on a rug, lying on a bed).
"row 3" / "column C"	Rows are numbered from the top; columns are lettered from the left.
"against the outside north wall"	They were in the top row. South is the bottom row, west the left column, east the right column. North is always up.
"in a corner of the building"	One of the four corner squares of the whole map.
"the only person in that room"	Nobody else was anywhere in the same room.
"in the same room as Felix"	Both of them were inside the same room.
"somewhere north of Cora"	Their row is higher up the page than Cora's, by any distance. West works the same way for columns.
"diagonally next to Leon"	Their squares touch corner to corner.
"not in the Café"	Anywhere except that room.

Can be occupied:  Chair  Rug  Bed

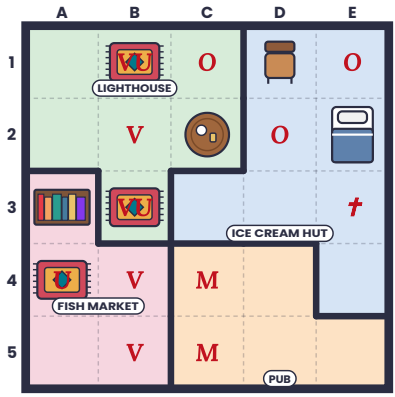
Nobody on:  Table  Plant  Shelf  Crate

How to Crack a Case

Every case in this book can be solved by elimination alone, with no guessing. Keep a pencil handy. Write a person's initial in the notebook grid when you place them, and put a cross through every square that is no longer possible.

> **The golden rule:** each row and each column holds exactly one person. So the moment you place someone, cross out the rest of their row and their column.

Here is Case 1, *The Crab Pot*, solved step by step. New crosses are shown in red; the newly placed person is ringed in green.



Pencil in the options. Read each statement and mark the squares it allows. **Vera** (in column B): B1, B2, B3, B4, B5; **Mabel** (in the Pub and in column C): C4, C5; **Umar** (on a rug): B1, B3, A4; **Olive** (beside a chair): C1, E1, D2; **The victim** (beside a bed and in row 3): E3. The victim is marked †.