

THE CLUES

PART ONE · WHY · MR. HALE'S RED LEDGER

- 1** *A pressed apple blossom was tucked inside the torn wrapping.*
The grudge was about land or a home: Foreclosed a farm, Foreclosed a house, or Evicted a family.
- 2** *Constable Truax: "A grudge from before the war would have boiled over long ago."*
The entry is dated 1946 or later.

Checkpoint After clues 1 and 2 you should have 19 entries left.

- 3** *Constable Truax: "Nobody poisons a man over pocket money."*
The amount is over \$3,000.
- 4** *Mr. Hale only lent money where he could ride out by train and be home for supper.*
The town is one or two stops from Kestrel Falls (see the railway map).

Checkpoint After clues 1 to 3: 10 entries. One entry is left after clue 4; write down its town for clue 19. Too many? Exactly \$3,000 is out on clue 3.

PART TWO · HOW · THE GIFT BOOK

- 5** *Doc Pruitt says the cyanide was in what Mr. Hale drank.*
The gift was food or drink.
- 6** *Nobody at the desk remembers who brought it in.*
The gift came by post.

Checkpoint After clues 5 and 6 you should have 37 gifts left. More? Cigars and tobacco are not food or drink.

- 7** *The scrap of wrapping paper under Mr. Hale's chair was green, and might have come from a tartan.*
The gift was wrapped in green or tartan paper.
- 8** *Gifts that came by December 13 were shared out at the staff party. Only later gifts went on the Christmas Eve table.*
The gift was received on December 14 or later.

Checkpoint One gift is left. Read its card note for clue 18. Two left? Re-check clue 8: December 13 itself is out.

PART THREE · WHO · THE WINTER REGISTER

- 9** *Whoever she was pretending to be, she travelled light.*
The killer travelled alone: a party of 1.
- 10** *A check or a hotel account leaves a real name at a bank.*
The killer paid cash.
- 11** *The porter who meets every train remembers her.*
The killer came by train.
- 12** *The post office clerk remembers a woman in a gray coat handing over the parcel.*
The killer signed as Mrs. or Miss.

Checkpoint A After clues 9–12: **249** guests left. More? Re-read clue 12: Mr. & Mrs. is a couple, not a woman alone.

- 13** *The night porter carried her case in after dark.*
The killer signed in at 5:00 pm or later.
- 14** *The maid remembers the name on her luggage tag was “short, like a sneeze.”*
The killer’s surname has five letters or fewer.
- 15** *She wanted to be forgotten, so she asked for nothing.*
The killer’s line in the register has no remark.
- 16** *She heard Mr. Hale describe his Christmas Eve table at the Sunday fireside talk, 8 pm.*
The killer was in the hotel at 8 pm on a Sunday (see the calendar and the Rules page).

Checkpoint B After clues 9–16: **24** guests left. More? Re-check clue 16: a guest who arrives on a Sunday counts only if she signed in by 8:00 pm.

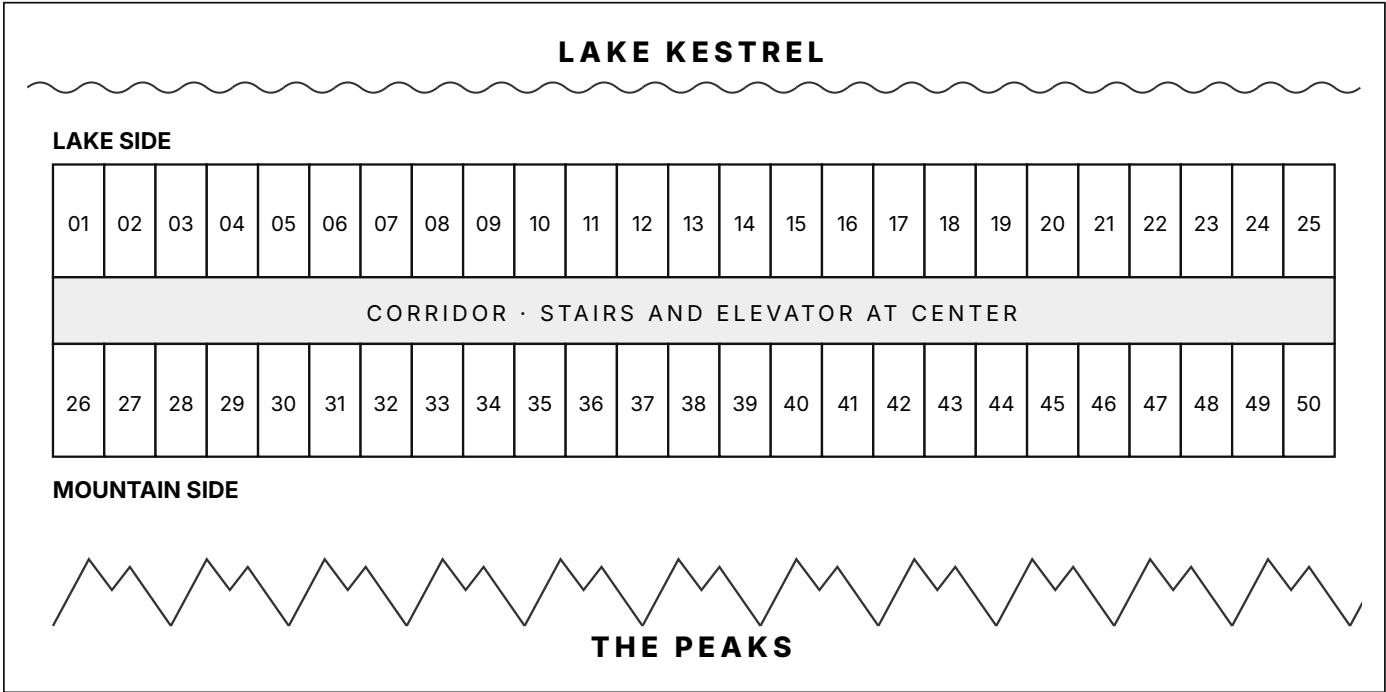
- 17** *The Thanksgiving seating plan lists every guest in the hotel that night. She is not on it.*
The killer did not sleep at the hotel on the night of Thursday, November 26 (see Stayed the night of a date).
- 18** *Read the card on the poisoned gift. It describes the view from her window.*
The killer’s room has that view (see the floor plan).
- 19** *A woman hiding her home tells you a town further away, never a nearer one.*
The killer wrote a valley town at least as many stops from Kestrel Falls as the town in the motive entry, on any line (see the railway map).

Checkpoint C After clues 9–19: **4** guests left, and one of them is the killer. More? Re-check clue 18: only Lake Side rooms on floors 4 to 9 count.

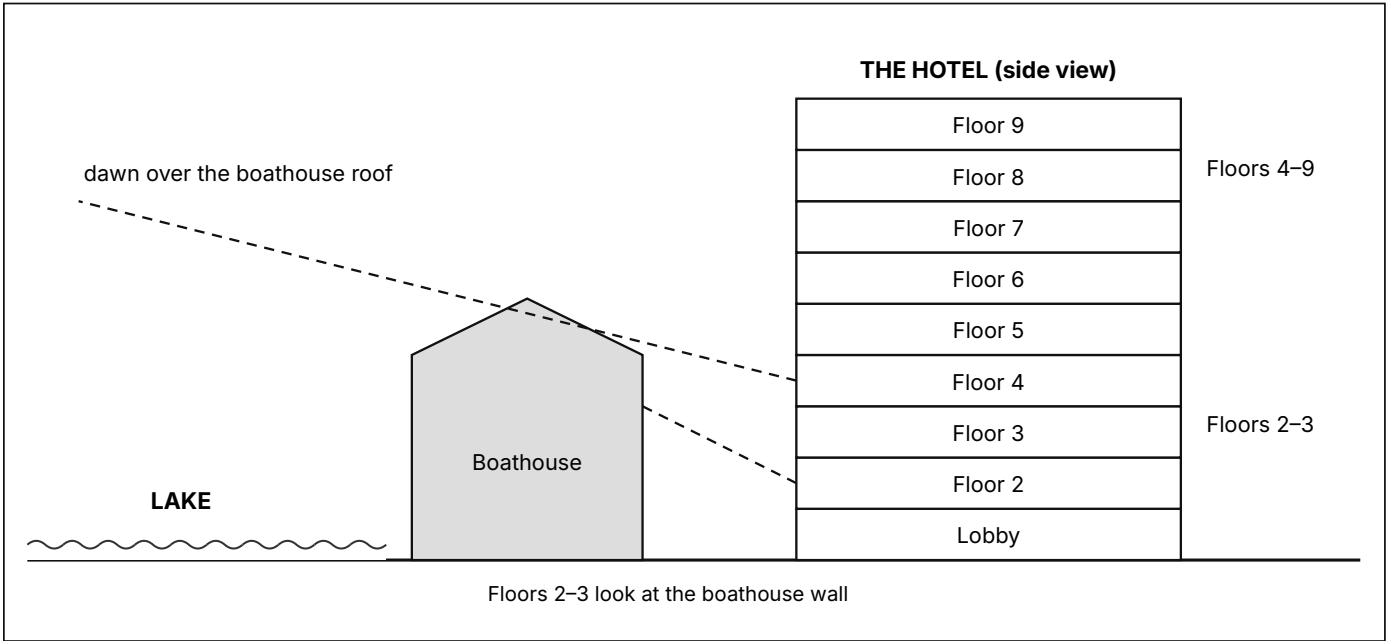
- 20** *Her home post office book shows she collected a registered letter there in person on Saturday, December 5.*
The killer checked out on December 5 or earlier.

FLOOR PLAN OF THE EVERGREEN GRAND

Guest rooms are on floors 2 to 9. Every guest floor has the same plan: 50 rooms, numbered 01 to 50.



Lake Side: places 01–25 face Lake Kestrel. **Mountain Side:** places 26–50 face the peaks.

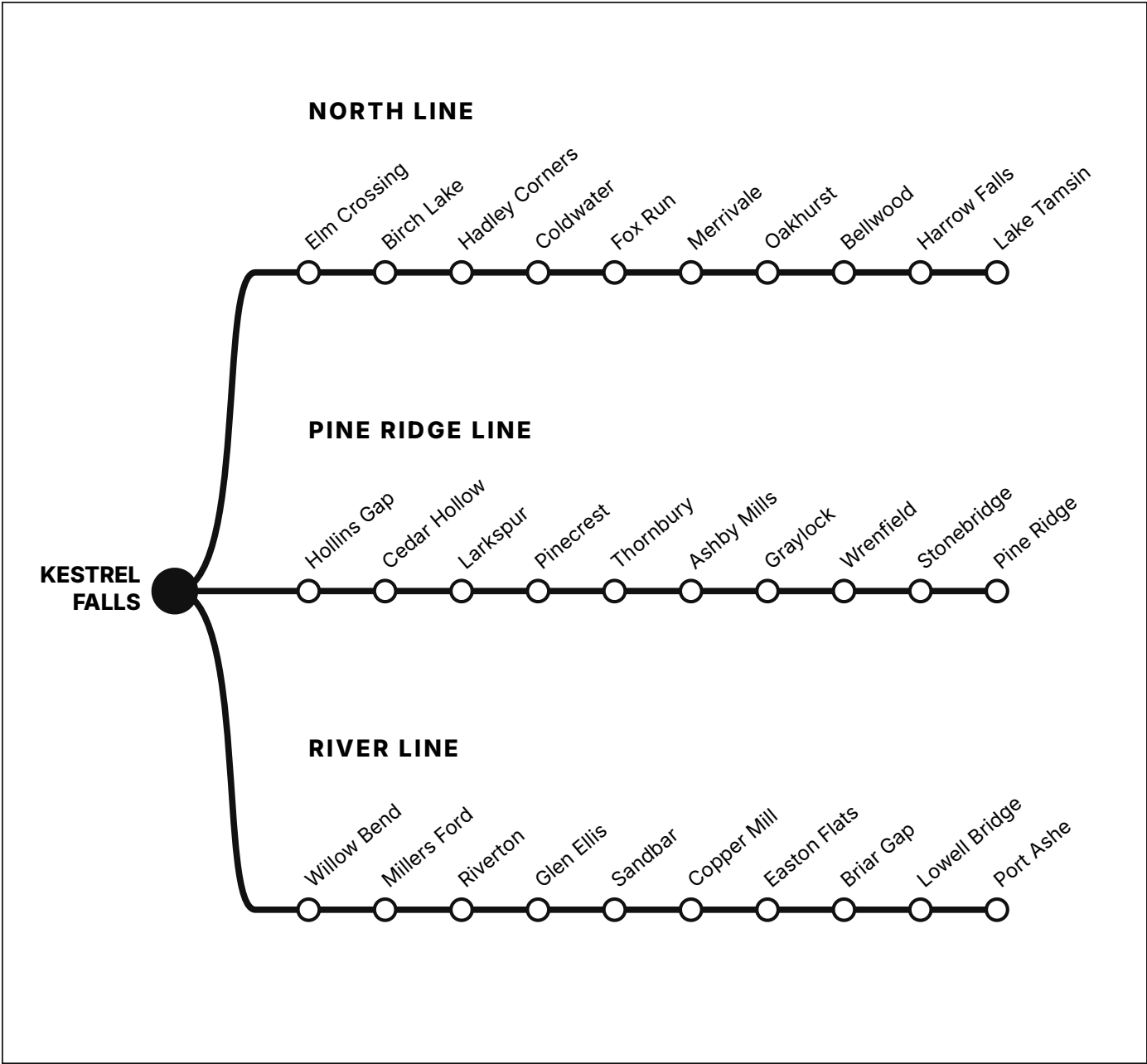


The boathouse. It stands between the hotel and the lake. Only **Lake Side rooms on floors 4 to 9** look out over the boathouse roof. From Lake Side rooms on floors 2 and 3, the boathouse roof is above eye level and hides the dawn: those rooms see the boathouse wall, never the dawn over its roof. Mountain Side rooms cannot see the boathouse at all.

Example: Room 312 is on floor 3, place 12: Lake Side, below the boathouse roof line.

RAILWAY MAP OF THE KESTREL VALLEY

Three lines run out of Kestrel Falls. Every station in the valley is shown. The first station after Kestrel Falls on each line is one stop away.



Trains arrive at Kestrel Falls daily at 9:20 am, 1:05 pm, 5:40 pm and 9:15 pm. Cities outside the valley, such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Hartford, Albany, Providence, Baltimore and Montreal, are reached by changing trains and are on no valley line.

CALENDAR

Sundays are shaded. Every Sunday at 8 pm, Mr. Hale gave his fireside talk in the lounge.

NOVEMBER 1959

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 1959

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Staff party	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31		

YOUR CASE NOTES

CLUE	LEFT AFTER IT	MATCHES HINT 3?	NOTES
1			
2			
3			
4			
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