SOLUTION

The Velvet Rope

Folake was the only person alone with **Val** — **Lobby**. The killer is unmasked.

1. Clue: “Andrés was beside a bench.” So Andrés can only be in 2 cells; cross out the 33 that don't fit.
2. Clue: “Andrés was standing on a rug.” So Andrés can only be in one cell; cross out the one square that doesn't fit.
3. Clue: “Bình was beside a stool.” So Bình can only be in 3 cells; cross out the 32 that don't fit.
4. Clue: “Châu was beside a plant.” So Châu can only be in 5 cells; cross out the 30 that don't fit.
5. Clue: “Châu was not in the lobby.” So Châu can only be in 4 cells; cross out the one square that doesn't fit.
6. Clue: “Diego was in the guest room.” So Diego can only be in 9 cells; cross out the 26 that don't fit.
7. Clue: “Ebele was sitting on a bench.” So Ebele can only be in 3 cells; cross out the 32 that don't fit.
8. Clue: “Ebele was in row 2.” So Ebele can only be in one cell; cross out the 2 that don't fit.
9. Clue: “Val was not beside any armchair.” So Val can only be in 31 cells; cross out the 4 that don't fit.
10. Andrés has only one possible cell left: row 4, column 7. Place Andrés there and cross out the rest of that row and column.
11. Ebele has only one possible cell left: row 2, column 4. Place Ebele there and cross out the rest of that row and column.
12. Châu has only one possible cell left: row 1, column 5. Place Châu there and cross out the rest of that row and column.
13. Diego has only one possible cell left: row 5, column 3. Place Diego there and cross out the rest of that row and column.
14. Bình has only one possible cell left: row 3, column 2. Place Bình there and cross out the rest of that row and column.
15. Row 6 needs exactly one person, and only Folake can still go there. So Folake must be in row 6 — cross out Folake's other cells.
16. Folake has only one possible cell left: row 6, column 6. Place Folake there and cross out the rest of that row and column.
17. Val has only one possible cell left: row 7, column 1. Place Val there and cross out the rest of that row and column.
18. The only other person in Val's room was Folake. Folake is the murderer!

