

The Prison

by idnAc

Thirteen months ago, I simply existed. Hidden from reality, I pondered the what-if's.
Shadowing the world with a dark curtain, I emerged into a world not known by most.
My very existence slowly diminished, as the continuous poison ran through my veins.
The very thing that melted my mind, I ingested daily.
Delusional? Yes. Crazy? Maybe.
Shattered dreams angered my very being. I zombie walked, amongst people, in a coma-like state.
Questions were handled with a blank stare. People soon left bewildered, as was I.
Isolation was my best friend. Fear of conversation caused distress.
Solitude engulfed my every word, when I mustered up the courage to finally speak.
In a room, I sat dazzled and puzzled. Days ran into weeks, and weeks into months, and months into years.
In the evenings, I sat amongst Grim Reapers, and danced with Movie Stars at night.
I had technicolored, sci-fi dreams that seemed to run into reality.
I hoped for the worst and feared for the best.
With my yesterdays forgotten, my memories perished.
The walls closed in on me, and alcohol became my ultimate prison. It was over; I had sealed my own fate.
Thankfully this is not where my story ends, but where it begins.

Figuring It Out

by R. Strandlof

To lock or not to lock my bike
The perfect fix was an old inner tube
To wrap around this chain
Cut the fence, cut the lock and chain
Steal my bike, you bastard, you S.O.B.s
To you, if I caught you I would put you on
The rack. Need a beer, ask me for money
Don't steal my car

From the Cold Hearted Front

by Williams Holmes IV

Broad slumbering walls of tethered iron boxes
A row of lamp posts, columns of light along their flank
Pallid static tiles lining insipid concrete walkways
Bubbly consonants oozing vowels, rippling statements
"There's nothing to be nervous about. Tickets aren't necessary to board."
Her paragon voice echoing confidence in an eastern tongue

PUZZLES

By Grace Badik

Answers on page 6

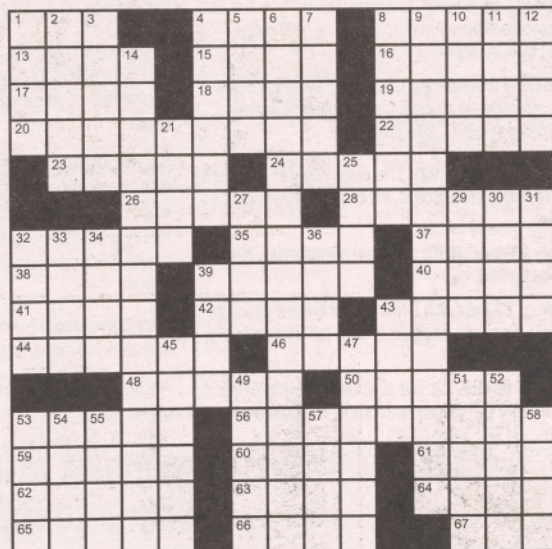
Crossword

Across

1. Nile biter
4. 100%
8. Showing no imagination
13. Send
15. Freudian topics
16. Nametag word
17. Cabbagelike vegetable
18. Coin opening
19. Willow twig
20. Shortage of work
22. Lyric poem
23. Baseball datum
24. Extended family
26. Fliers in V's
28. Proper
32. Boorish sort
35. Prize since 1949
37. Sincere
38. New Mexico Indian
39. Push
40. Discovery
41. Not "fer"
42. Popular new year's resolution
43. "You'll never _____"
44. Second shot
46. Riot
48. Buccaneers' home
50. Kidney-related
53. One step

Down

56. Money paid to strikers by their labor union
59. Drink served with marshmallows
60. Colored
61. Heroic tale
62. Spy
63. Length x width, for a rectangle
64. Boat with an open hold
65. A yellow-flowered shrub of the pea family
66. Healthy
67. Clairvoyance, e.g.
1. Inquires
2. Persian potentates
3. Kitchen light
4. Partner with mortar
5. Wrinkly fruit
6. A comfortable ambient temperature
7. Oil of wintergreen, e.g.
8. One of the friends on "Friends"

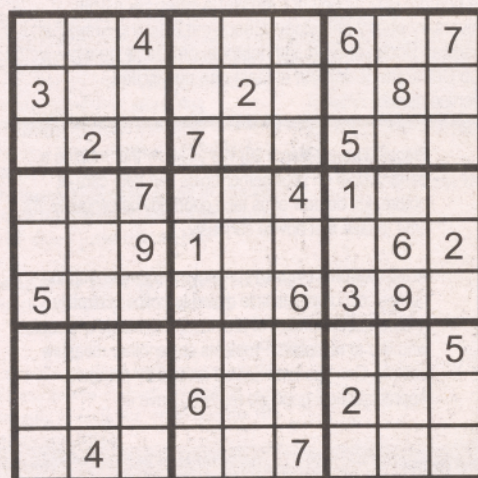


9. Courteous regard for people's feelings
10. Assortment
11. Musher's transport
12. Bygone era
14. Travelings
21. Old Chinese money
25. Tranquil scene
27. 18-wheeler
29. View from Toledo

30. Women in habits
31. Kennedy and Turner
32. Industry big shot
33. Bigger than big
34. The U of "Law & Order: SVU"
36. Allot, with "out"
39. Footnote word
43. Nerd
45. Kind of chop
47. Kind of gown

49. "Don't give me that!"
51. Abreast (of)
52. Largest city of Nigeria
53. Heroin, slangily
54. Like some pizza orders
55. Maple genus
57. Casting need
58. A harsh or hoarse cry or yelp

Sudoku



The objective of Sudoku is to fill in all the blank squares with the correct numbers from 1 to 9. Every row, column and square must include all digits, 1 through 9, in any order.

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