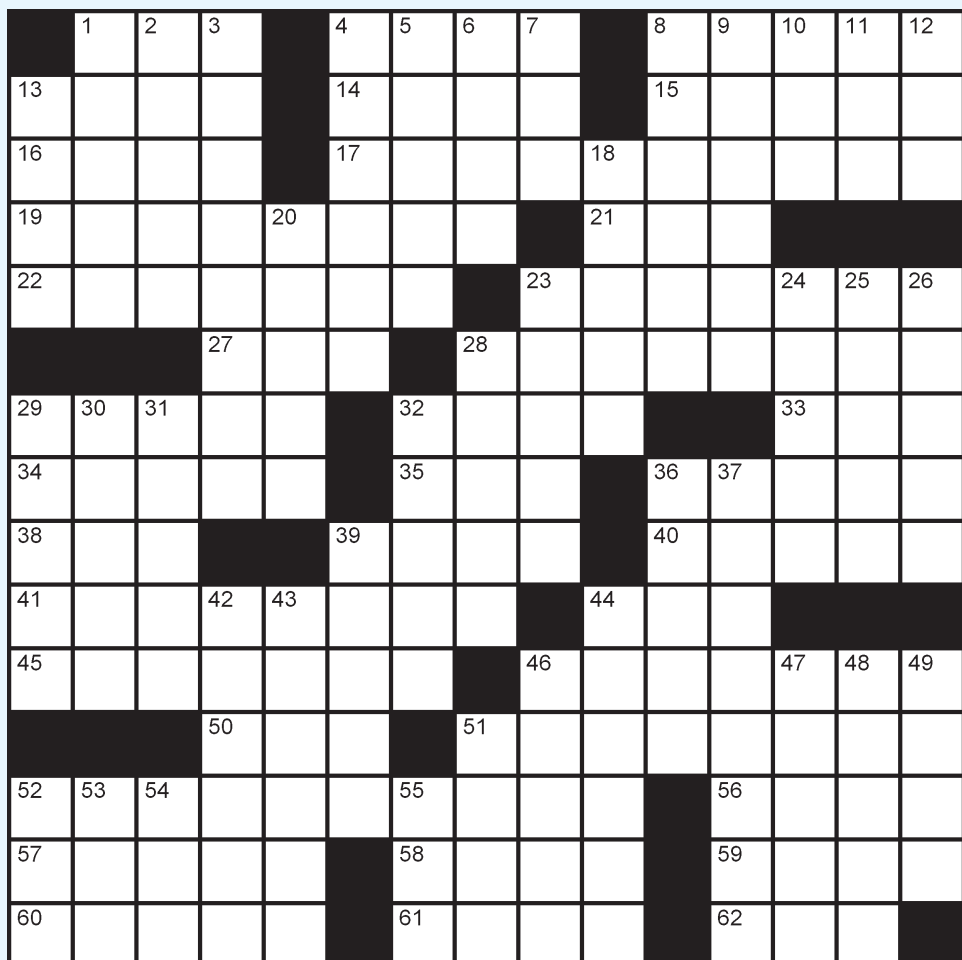


### Money Down by Emily Carroll

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Econ. stat hidden in "signpost"
  - 4 Rare gender for a calico cat
  - 8 Baton-passing race
  - 13 Butter type in moisturizers
  - 14 Captain of the Pequod
  - 15 Public relations concern
  - 16 Eggplant \_\_\_ (popular Italian dish, for short)
  - 17 Part of a Western costume
  - 19 \*Bridge maneuvers (note each starred answer's first word, plus four letters below it)
  - 21 Lentil dish in Mumbai
  - 22 Sources of some nut butter
  - 23 \*Apt cocktail for a biker bar?
  - 27 \_\_\_ Miz"
  - 28 Sweater material
  - 29 With 35- and 40-Across, like this puzzle's shady payments?
  - 32 Like chewy pretzels
  - 33 Be dishonest
  - 34 Some write limericks
  - 35 See 29-Across
  - 36 They might cause a brain freeze
  - 38 Titter on Twitter
  - 39 Enemies
  - 40 See 29-Across
  - 41 "\_\_\_ of the Body Snatchers"
  - 44 L.A.'s \_\_\_ Air
  - 45 Got a new canine, say?
  - 46 Pieces of commentary
  - 50 Gondola steerer
  - 51 \*Family-friendly restaurant offering
  - 52 Subject of "Walk the Line"
  - 56 Unit of land
  - 57 Get along well (with)
  - 58 Cookie with a Golden variety
  - 59 Its shoulders can support many tons
  - 60 Relinquishes
  - 61 Hammer sound
  - 62 Holiday \_\_\_
- DOWN**
- 1 Country west of Togo
  - 2 Stereotypical trivia whizzes
  - 3 Printed handout
  - 4 Colorful talkers?
  - 5 Sailors' salutations
  - 6 Bills, when signed by the president
  - 7 Go out, like the tide
  - 8 Saudi Arabia's capital
  - 9 Symbol
  - 10 Southeast Asian tongue
  - 11 Back in the day
  - 12 "Nevertheless ..."
  - 13 Design detail, briefly
  - 18 Writer of praiseful verses
  - 20 Unwanted looks
  - 23 Vaults for valuables
  - 24 Subject of a paparazzo's pic
  - 25 Disney mermaid
  - 26 Actress Witherspoon
  - 28 Bravo host Andy
  - 29 Illuminated from beneath
  - 30 "Said \_\_\_ ever!"
  - 31 Dig deep (into)
  - 32 Endured
  - 36 They're on the agenda
  - 37 Fried squid rings, e.g.
  - 39 Blazing
  - 42 Right away
  - 43 Hits wrong, in golf
  - 44 Person who takes covers
  - 46 Gone up
  - 47 Drone's mission, briefly
  - 48 Fashionable Donna
  - 49 Winter conveyance
  - 51 Songwriter DioGuardi
  - 52 Org. closed on Yom Kippur
  - 53 Futbol cheer
  - 54 Holed up
  - 55 Corn throwaway

### HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020 *Trap of Venus & Neptune*



When you show up ready to assess the situation and give an opinion or judgment, you'll see what's wrong, what needs changing, what could be improved. When you show up in need, you'll see only the part you need. Given the trap set by Venus and Neptune, it's wise to show up sans agenda, with the soft heart that allows for seeing what is.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You deserve every rose you're flung and so many more. If no rose comes by way of florist, metaphor or dirt, seek it out and gift it to yourself, forgiving the critical oversight of the world.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The omens suggest that you are still trying to make your needs fit nicely into the matrix of everyone else's. Are they also doing that for you? Would they? Truth inspires adjustments.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You don't have to say what you want and expect people to feel it. Improving relationships has to do with aligning expectations with what a person can give and wants to give.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** When the flow of ideas hits, it's like a river rushing over the cliff of your consciousness, crashing impressively down while effervescing up, casting prisms into the sky.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Would you rather be mad with the rest of the world or wise alone? Well, it's a binary choice of the past that no one with internet connection needs to worry about. Whatever the belief, there's a tribe out there waiting for another member.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Wishing is fun. Pretending is slightly harder though also quite fun. Doing it, failing, doing it again, failing again... that's the part that's considerably less fun and the only way to get the skill.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The message you give is what someone needs to hear. This perfect meeting of

words and a receptive mind is made possible by your willingness to show up, speak out and connect.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The space between a person doing his or her best and the person in need of that service is sacred ground. The skill level or perfection of the product has little relevance to the exchange.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** This thing you want - you've conditioned to think that it has to be given by someone else or it doesn't count. That's ridiculous. Be first to hand it to yourself and watch the line form behind you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** To think bigger is to imagine what it means to other people outside of the circle, across borders, over time, beyond your generation. You'll open yourself to the wider philosophy, the various applications and implications.

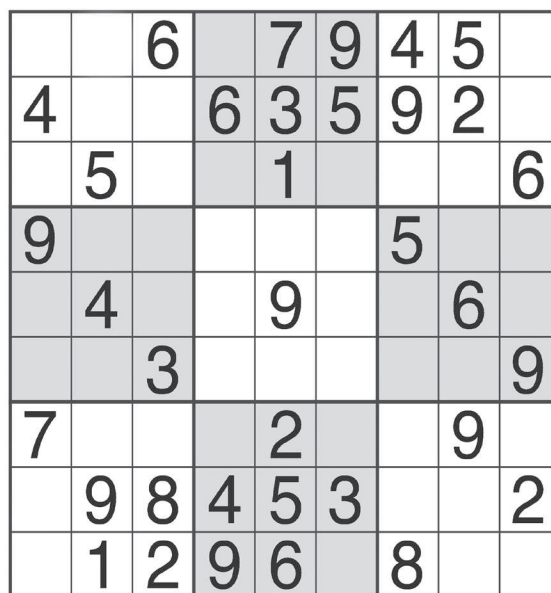
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Take your time. Everyone's process is different, and letting things happen unhurried will allow you to learn, savor and retain more. Soon, new information will surface that makes the right decision obvious.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Like the elephant, you don't forget. If someone thrills you once, you'll anticipate the next time. Same goes for the one who offended you, although such a person rarely gets a chance at "next time" because you're long gone.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 30).** You keep pushing past old patterns, playfully creating a new order of living and loving. It allows you to vibrantly respond to the exciting events of 2021, which include a surprising professional turn, an exhilarating heart connection and a long-overdue award. Also, you'll do something extraordinary with freed-up funds. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 3, 11, 20 and 18.

### Universal SUDOKU

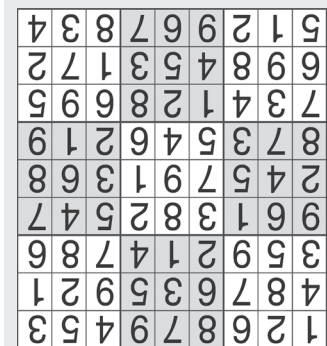
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

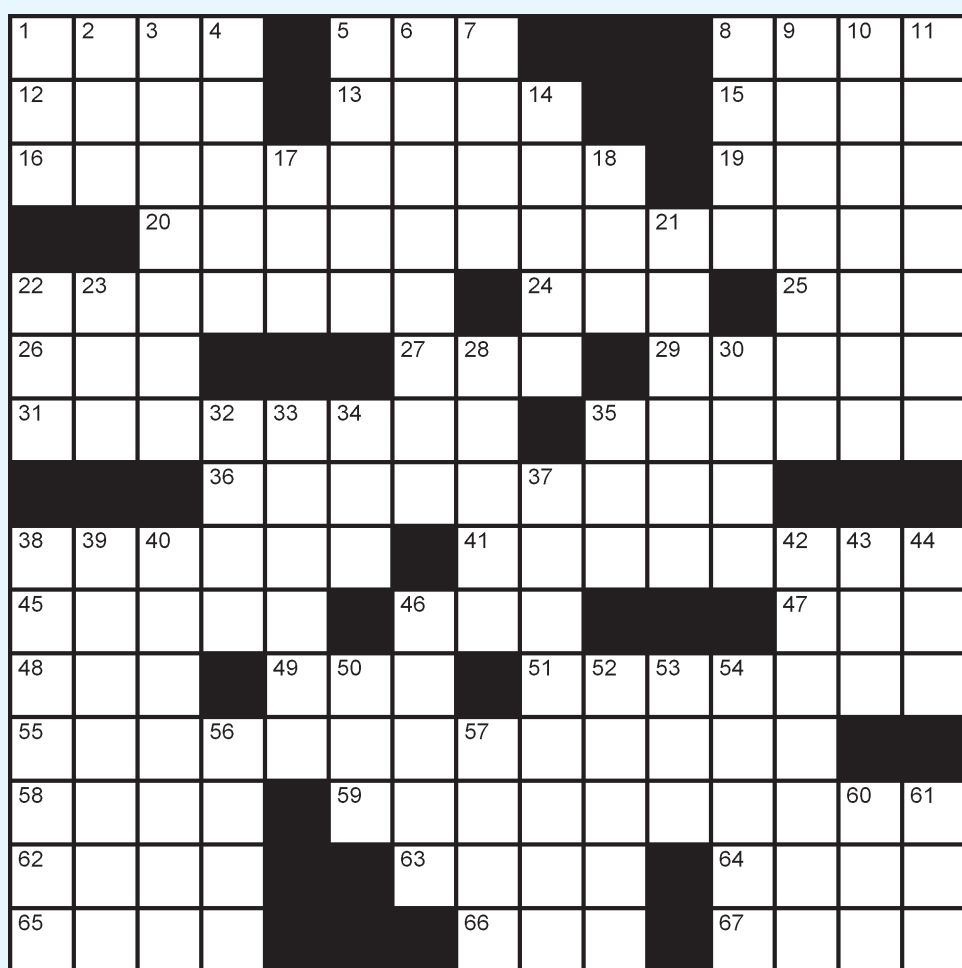


### SOLUTIONS



### Cutoff Tees by Amanda Rafkin & Ross Trudeau

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Lane of the Daily Planet
  - 5 \_\_\_ carte
  - 8 Squid ink holders
  - 12 Mother's sister, maybe
  - 13 Laze
  - 15 Show approval at the theater
  - 16 Surge in summer swimsuit sales?
  - 19 Ski resort near Snowbird
  - 20 Captain's declaration before a team hits the bar?
  - 22 Stylishly graceful
  - 24 LP speed
  - 25 Exam for some college srs.
  - 26 Up to, informally
  - 27 "Tarzan" actor Ron
  - 29 Man-eating giants
  - 31 What getting a massage is an example of
  - 35 Little mouse?
  - 36 Prophet from Dublin?
  - 38 Stereotypical prosthetic limb for a pirate
  - 41 Doesn't suppress
  - 45 Banish to an island, say
  - 46 Leave the oven on, e.g.
  - 47 Regret
  - 48 Solver's cry
  - 49 ASAP
  - 51 "Count me in!"
  - 55 Select hay pragmatically?
  - 58 High woodwind
  - 59 Where stage directors learn their craft?
  - 62 Word before "novel" or "store"
  - 63 Support for a flower bud
  - 64 It may be made with clasped hands
  - 65 Hit the brakes
  - 66 Distinct period
  - 67 Barking marine mammal
- DOWN**
- 1 Where to find petri dishes
  - 2 French opposite of "non"
  - 3 Place to dip a quill
  - 4 Lisbeth Salander creator Larsson
  - 5 One may visit Earth, in movies
  - 6 Maine courses
  - 7 \_\_\_ vera
  - 8 Sign of healing
  - 9 Antihistamine
  - 10 Person supplying a wedding
  - 11 Most lean
  - 14 Truck, to a Brit
  - 17 Contract to protect trade secrets: Abbr.
  - 18 Star member of a team, for short
  - 21 Hams it up
  - 22 AP exam company Whopper
  - 23 "The Merry Widow" composer (HALER anagram)
  - 30 Spiritual teacher
  - 32 Replenish, as a pitcher
  - 33 Hair-raising
  - 34 Insurance giant
  - 35 Word with a record 430 OED definitions
  - 37 Longtime name in publishing
  - 38 Green legume holders
  - 39 Museum feature
  - 40 Opera's Puccini
  - 42 Early chance to buy discounted goods
  - 43 Belonging to us
  - 44 Born as
  - 46 Lumet film whose title is Latin for "horse"
  - 50 Physician, informally
  - 52 Volcanic flow
  - 53 Pampering initials
  - 54 Pitches in
  - 56 Maintain possession of
  - 57 Bat mitzvah, e.g.
  - 60 Aegean or Caribbean
  - 61 "Blueberries for \_\_\_" (kid lit classic)

### HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020 *Leo Moon Calls Cosmic Countdown*



The theatrical Leo moon is a welcome emcee for the New Year's Eve countdown, especially in a year when many will forgo the crowd and celebrate safely with festive media. Leo moon pulls out all the show business stops so the entertainment will glitter and pop as they lift warm hopes for an improved world in the calendar year ahead.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Relationships, just like any other endeavor, will roll much easier once momentum kicks in. This never happens from a still position. Things have to be moving to get moving.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The words "I love you" translate nicely, though not directly. Anyway, you know when you're loved. You could tell them when it happens and that would be a more accurate and evidence-based approach.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** It's as though, sign of the twins, you are two people, one being perpetually surprised at what the other wants and equally impressed by what both are willing to do to get it.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You wanted it to be very beautiful, and so you saw it as very beautiful. And so it was. Perhaps there are objective standards to be met but they are boring compared with the complex metrics your heart searches to satisfy.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You'll mentally scan through your recent history, which will lead to a broad array of feelings including (but not limited to) pride, satisfaction, gratitude, hunger, compassion, tenderheartedness and ambition.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You're self-driven. You still have to answer to people, but ultimately, they are getting the sense that this protocol, while you may follow it, means little to you. Your assessment is the only one that matters.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You may be particularly sensitive to stress triggers, but when you take extra precautions to make yourself feel comfortable and safe, you become quite impervious.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** All this talk about expressing one's authenticity and yet many don't realize that each person contains multitudes. You embrace your complexity, which affords you flexibility of expression.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Where you used to have very few choices, you now have options aplenty. So many, in fact, that many are paralyzed by seemingly endless possibilities. Not you. You've an uncanny sense for finding your perfect fit.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Maybe you're not consciously willing to let go of your old way of doing things in the name of trying to form a new bond with someone, and yet that is exactly what will happen.

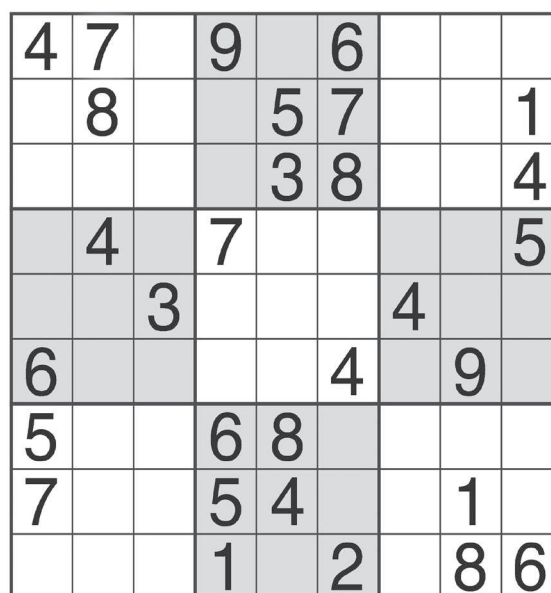
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You'll make a difference by bringing awareness to issues that matter. Yours is a gentle wake-up call, like an alarm clock that chirps rainforest sounds at progressively higher volumes.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're serious about getting what you want - once you know what that is. Right now, there's no way to tell. You haven't tasted enough of the sample platter yet, but you will in the days to come.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 31).** Normally, you wouldn't consider the pursuit of pleasure a top priority, but this year shows you reordering your internal organization and becoming richly fulfilled. The surprise for you will be in how much your happiness contributes to the happiness of others. You'll cash in an unusual bestowal. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 25, 1, 17 and 36.

### Universal SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



### SOLUTIONS

