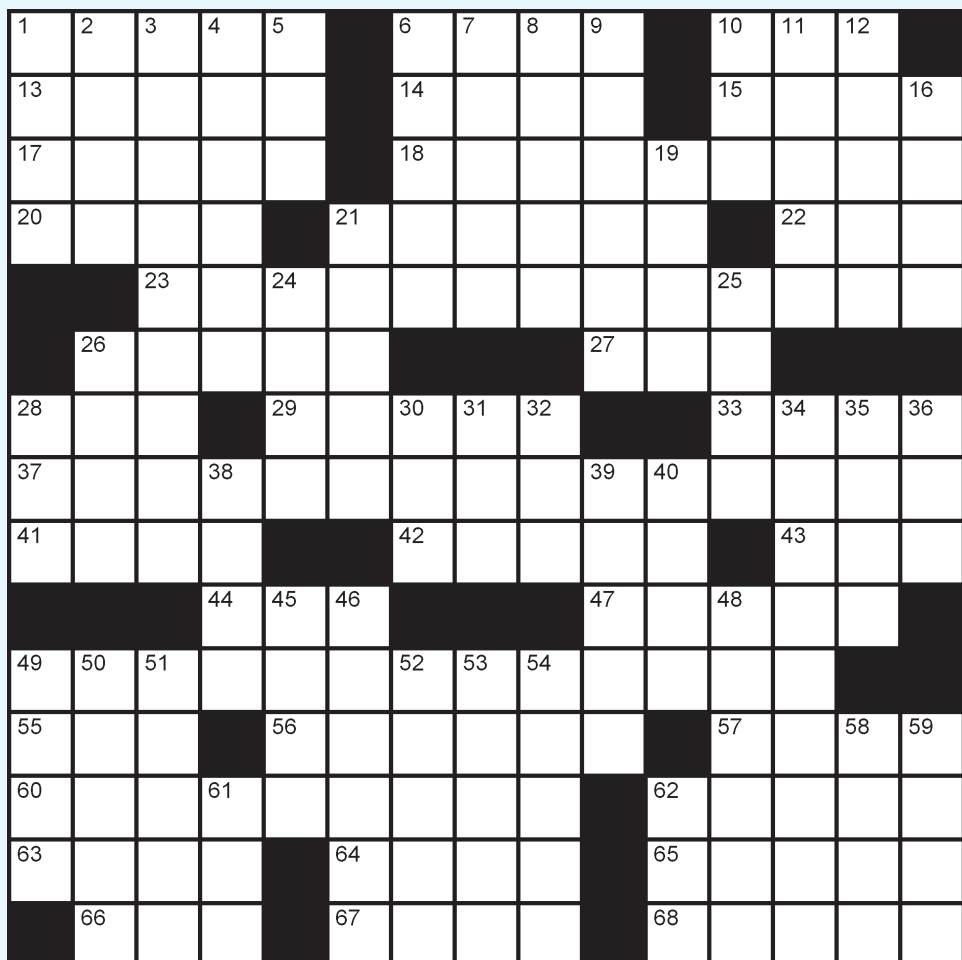


### Holding Periods by Zhougin Burnikel

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Expire, as a subscription
  - 6 Some movie theaters
  - 10 Animal that oinks
  - 13 Portion out
  - 14 Put on a pouty face
  - 15 Raunchy writing
  - 17 Miso and undon dishes
  - 18 \*Improvise (see letters 6 to 9 in this answer)
  - 20 Get-together, casually
  - 21 Where poodles are pampered
  - 22 "Midsommar" director Aster
  - 23 \*Home in a tall building (7 to 12)
  - 26 Arcade game pioneer
  - 27 Precursor to rocksteady
  - 28 Number that shares a key with @
  - 29 Problem
  - 33 Poodle's annoyance
  - 37 \*1979 Rod Stewart hit whose title is a question (1 to 3)
  - 41 The "S" of GPS: Abbr.
  - 42 Aetna competitor
  - 43 Overtime cause
  - 44 Hosp. surgical areas
  - 47 Windshield hazard
  - 49 \*Shared characteristics (4 to 8)
  - 55 80, for Dr. Fauci
  - 56 Professional pursuit
  - 57 Showroom model
  - 60 Workplace respite, and a hint to the starred answers' indicated letters
  - 62 Consume completely
  - 63 Rogen of "Steve Jobs"
  - 64 Kept in the email loop
  - 65 Like a fresh muffin
  - 66 Retirement benefits org.
  - 67 Egg farm mothers
  - 68 Poker entry fees
- DOWN**
- 1 Glasgow girl
  - 2 Hand cream additive
  - 3 Teddy bears, e.g.
  - 4 Bush of "One Tree Hill"
  - 5 Mars rovers, perhaps?: Abbr.
  - 6 According to
  - 7 Prefix meaning "many"
  - 8 School group
  - 9 Uses a certain video chat program
  - 10 K-pop star who rose to fame in 2012
  - 11 "To be clear ..."
  - 12 Watch over
  - 16 The Chicks, e.g.
  - 19 Support with funds
  - 21 Engage in an online scam
  - 24 Stick-to-itiveness
  - 25 Bumbling ones
  - 26 Out of town
  - 28 Six-pt. plays
  - 30 (This wasn't my error)
  - 31 College, in British slang
  - 32 Heart test, briefly
  - 34 "We need proof!"
  - 35 Walk off the stage
  - 36 Assent that sounds like a vowel
  - 38 Molecule component
  - 39 Conclude through logic
  - 40 "Mary Magdalene" star Rooney
  - 45 Loser to paper
  - 46 Grab
  - 48 Most likely to win
  - 49 Airport-to-hotel transports
  - 50 Folklore meanies
  - 51 Swim team events
  - 52 Blink of an eye
  - 53 Macho sorts
  - 54 Plants used in basketry
  - 58 Creative inspiration
  - 59 Goes (for)
  - 61 "I figured it out!"
  - 62 Thurman of "Gattaca"

### HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021 *The Secret to This Lunar Obstacle Course*



Most people adopt their friend's perspective on a conflict, a tendency that causes prejudice and thwarts the potential for the understanding that comes of balanced truth-seeking. Those who resist this tendency today will happily avoid the pitfalls of a badly aspected Uranus whilst thriving in the harmony of a double-trine Leo moon transit.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Orphans and strays will be attracted to you because wherever you go, whatever you do, you carry with you a strong sense of grounding. Being around you feels like home.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Clicking around the internet, it's easy to find 10 people doing the same thing as you. However, you don't let that in any way discourage you. You can be sure that no one will bring it together in quite the manner as you will.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You will take people to new places, either physically or figuratively, just by being the bold version of yourself who is curious, playful and magnetically drawn to novel territory.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Comfort actually undermines your work because you need people to be alert and on their toes, curious about what you'll do next. Challenge people's comfort to energize the scene.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Investigate before you try to fix a thing. Has it ever been fixed? Is a solution within the realm of possibility given the time frame? If it doesn't have a solution, then it's not a problem, just a state of things to accept and get used to.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You take pride in your ability to protect and reassure others, providing them with a sense of security that's a rare and precious gift in this big, wild world. Whether they know and appreciate this is a story for another time.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You want to know how

everything works individually, and then how it works together, and how it works in perpetuity. But first, take the quick, concrete action to get it working, period.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You'll make exceptional findings but it is not currently necessary to tell anyone or even to marvel at the specialness. These are early stages, and this part of the unfolding is meant just for you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You've overcome obstacles, so give yourself credit for that. Going forward is easier when you remember who you are, recognize what you've done and believe in your ability to repeat success.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You really don't have to be certain of your outcome to be confident. The confidence doesn't come from knowing you'll succeed; it comes from knowing you'll prevail either way and, likely, eventually, figure it out.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You know when to strategically give your message in a whisper because people making an effort to lean in are more receptive listeners than people blown back by intensity and volume.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** What you're doing is for a very specific and small audience – maybe that audience is just you for now – and that's how you know it matters. Because if it raises you up, then it does the whole world a favor.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 24).** You will be guided by a spiritual alignment with assurances that hail from deep within you. This support, as ancient and strong as a gigantic redwood tree, will also seem to come from the outside. It's coming from people with deep roots and entities of might and history, and the karma of an ancestral lineage. Pisces and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 22, 12, 6, 38 and 40.

### Universal SUDOKU

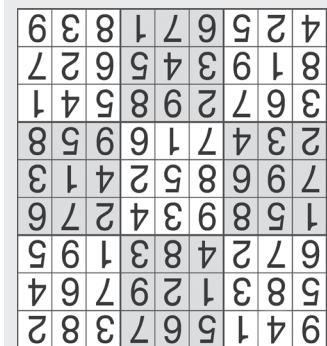
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

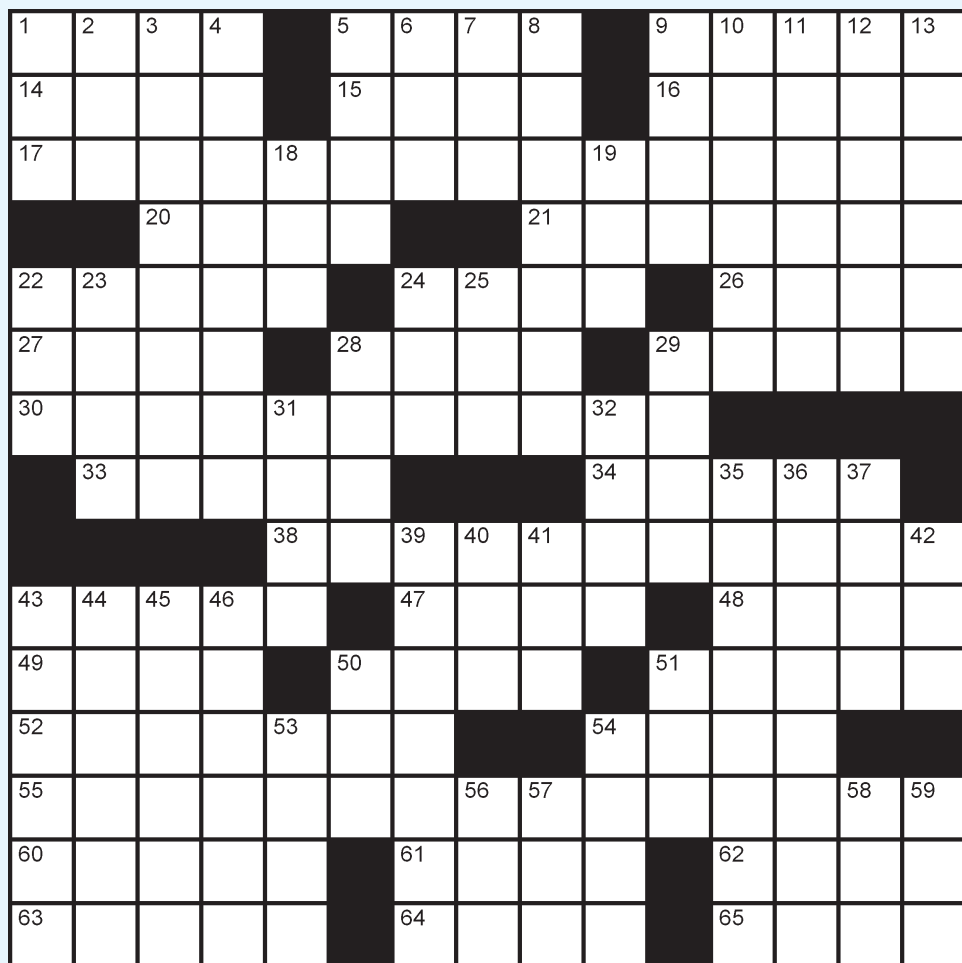


### SOLUTIONS



### The End Is the Beginning by Rebecca Goldstein

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Depilatory brand
  - 5 "Surely you \_\_\_!"
  - 9 Formal agreements
  - 14 Present opening?
  - 15 Region
  - 16 Dole out
  - 17 \*Intergalactic makers' studio? (hint: read each starred answer's middle word twice)
  - 20 Quick look
  - 21 Runway display
  - 22 New York NBA player
  - 24 Played music at a club
  - 26 Snowballs, in a snowball fight
  - 27 Actress Rowlands
  - 28 Moderate gait
  - 29 Long-eared animals
  - 30 \*Retaliation for overdue wages?
  - 33 Nonbinary possessive
  - 34 Speech-language pathologist's concerns
  - 38 \*Where Fred Flintstone goes to get away from it all?
  - 43 \_\_\_-full
  - 47 Eclipse, to some
  - 48 Mineral deposits
  - 49 Queue
  - 50 Texter's "Then again ..."
  - 51 Bread for Swiss cheese?
  - 52 Sandal feature
  - 54 Chest press targets, informally
  - 55 \*Chardonnay served at a state dinner, say?
  - 60 Network connections
  - 61 Like some affordable textbooks
  - 62 GPS calculations
  - 63 Trains in the ring
  - 64 Prepare for takeoff
  - 65 Enlist again
- DOWN**
- 1 Negative replies
  - 2 What an electric guitar hooks up to
  - 3 If all else fails
  - 4 Puffed snack
  - 5 Guy in a toy box?
  - 6 Add wrong, perhaps
  - 7 \_\_\_ shanty
  - 8 Ball gown fabric
  - 9 Word after "boarding" or "touchdown"
  - 10 Pack leaders
  - 11 Insurance cases
  - 12 In store
  - 13 Shorthand pros
  - 18 Startled cry
  - 19 Wee bit
  - 22 Soviet spy org.
  - 23 Tidy
  - 24 Like some hard cider
  - 25 "You had one \_\_\_!"
  - 28 Skating gold medalist Lipinski
  - 29 Similar (to)
  - 31 Guitar strummer
  - 32 Extended family
  - 35 Hot day
  - 36 2019 film that won Best Picture
  - 37 "Frozen" reindeer
  - 39 Replace, electorally
  - 40 Dashboard
  - 41 Confessional genre
  - 42 "I'm not impressed"
  - 43 Upper-left key
  - 44 Birthday party performers
  - 45 Genre for Nicki Minaj
  - 46 One often on the rebound?
  - 50 "I'm impressed!"
  - 51 Not many
  - 53 Model Holiday
  - 54 Toenail treatment, informally
  - 56 Megan Rapinoe's team
  - 57 Kind of hormone
  - 58 T, on a sorority sweatshirt
  - 59 Sixth sense, for short

### HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021 *Emotional Cancer Moon*



In this age of artificial intelligence, there may come a day in which any task that can be automated will be. On this day of strong feelings, emotional bonds and interactions that reinforce our sense of belonging, we have the most fun with the sort of tasks and mental states that fall squarely into the domain of humanity, and it will never be otherwise.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Just as the light of the sun encourages the flowers to open up, people take your warmth as an invitation to share their stories, experiences and all the beauty inside to you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Your instincts, like knives, will be sharpened by scraping the hard, flinty surface of an interesting, immobile-seeming problem. This is the kind of invaluable training that can't be bought.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You don't have a problem with biting off more than you can chew because you have the equivalent of utensils at your disposal. You have the tools to take a big chunk, and then cut it down the perfect manageable size.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** There are those you know who seem averse to work and yet still come out ahead. You don't mind working but observe the "lazy strategists" anyway to be sure you're putting effort in where it's necessary and will matter.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Often the line between adversary and ally is surprisingly fine. Conflict doesn't an enemy make. Your team is stronger when you include people whose ideas conflict with yours. Diversify for might.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You've a creative way of explaining things, and people love to listen to the way you share what you know. Who else needs to know this? Your gift of teaching will augment your fortunes.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Don't worry about pleasing others. They may think they know what they want. Yet, it's something else entirely that will make them happy. You're better off pleasing yourself and letting them catch up later.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Make your presentation smooth and glossy. Getting the extra shine will take about the same amount of time as it took to build the thing to the level of "pretty good," but it will be worth it to attain that wow factor.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You're an excellent judge of character, so follow your sense about people to determine who will inspire you to stay on-task and in the optimal mood.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Some would say you are kind when you don't have to be, but they don't know your moral code commands kindness always. Of course, kindness comes in many forms, some unlikely.

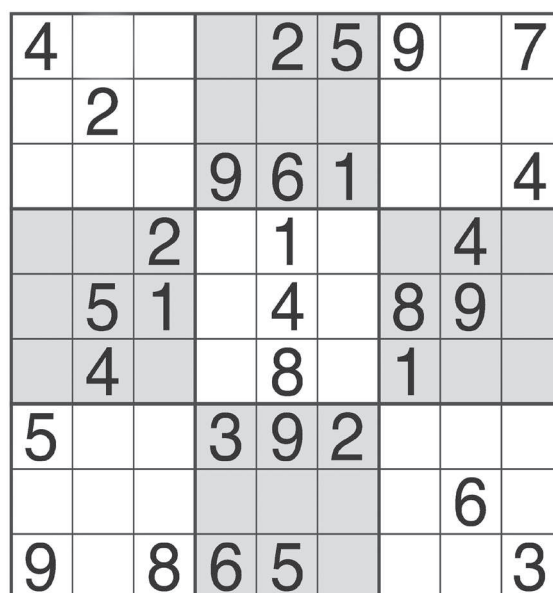
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Sometimes, the rocky road leads to a beautiful vantage, and sometimes it's a hard road to nowhere. This is something to figure out before you embark. Consult the maps and the seasoned hikers.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Things can get better on their own, but perhaps not in the time frame you'd like them to. Besides, it's more fun when you know you've had a hand in the improvement.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 25).** You're inventive and will solve a problem that vexes many. In this regard, you'll carve out a niche for yourself and get a golden ticket to a new realm. It's not a one-shot opportunity though, so don't be too quick to make a deal or be exclusive. Family successes make you proud, too. You'll have plenty to celebrate together! Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 40, 1, 11 & 42.

### Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



### SOLUTIONS

