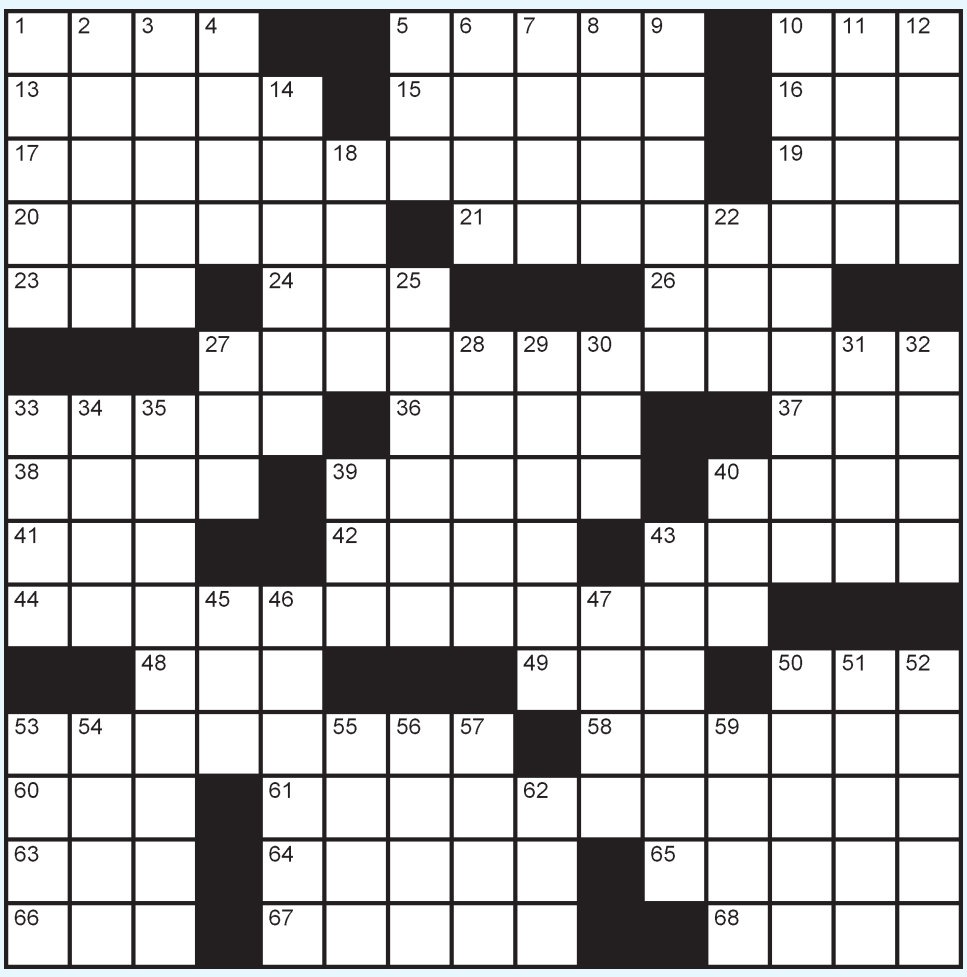
Changing Identity *by Catherine Cetta*

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



ACROSS
1 Fence opening
5 Beet's leafy relative
10 Unreturnable serve
13 Amazon assistant
15 Blender setting
16 Ewe's mate
17 Words in a salad description
19 "I don't need to know this," in 3-Down
20 Has a meal at home
21 Took the place of
23 Blog feed letters
24 Expected
26 Earth: Prefix
27 Went on a wild goose chase, say
33 Tahoe and Titicaca
36 Be too sweet
37 Baby's syllable
38 Give off
39 Stood out
40 "___ my lips!"
41 Hairstyling stuff
42 Ninth mo.
43 In a way, informally
44 What a student who never goes to class can earn?
48 Lead-in to "friendly"
49 Openly LGBTQ+
50 ___-mo
53 Lemon pie topping
58 Large bin for grain
60 Pitching stat
61 Not conforming to male or female stereotypes, and a hint to the word scrambled within 17-, 27- and 44-Across
63 Bro or sis
64 Olympic swimmer's unit
65 "May the ___ be with you"
66 "___ All That" (2021 film)
67 Atmosphere layer
68 Former Russian ruler

DOWN
1 "Minecraft" fanatic, perhaps
2 Second name?
3 "TTYL" and "IMO," for two
4 Past partners
5 EMT's specialty
6 Shades
7 Pi*r-squared, for a circle
8 Tenant's payment
9 Tattooist's pattern
10 Copier at work?
11 G.I. garb
12 Middle Eastern ruler
14 Nike competitor
18 Bearded antelopes
22 Word before a former surname
25 Impressed deeply?
27 Moisten
28 Get to "I do" without ado
29 "Please stay!"
30 A Cyclops has only one
31 Milk source
32 Luke Skywalker's mentor he was
33 Toy brick brand
34 "Hallelujah!"
35 Core workout goal
39 U-turn from NNW
40 Fish eggs
43 Trigger, as an alarm
45 Here, in Paris
46 Label in a health food aisle
47 German industrial valley
50 Urges (on)
51 German camera maker
52 Alphabetical ___
53 Fit together well
54 The "E" of HOMES
55 "Aww, c'mon ..."
56 Golden rule word
57 Paradise in Genesis
59 Backbone of a novel?
62 Before, to a poet

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021 *New Moon Preparations*

Inside every new moon, there's an opportunity to start fresh with a project, relationship or area of your life. The Gemini influence on tomorrow's prospects will center around the social and intellectual. Who and what you know will alter your destiny. Discover and guide your curiosity to ready yourself for tomorrow's new moon and eclipse.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One quest that's worthy of you is the quest to become masterful at reading the room. Even the most familiar rooms have more to offer once you tune into their particular frequency and adjust your own accordingly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The action won't be controlled. This scene has a force too strong for one person to thwart or even steer, but it can be influenced, nudged along in a way that will make a difference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll use different words and make updates to the way you present yourself both in person and in the digital realm. Your fresh style will bring social and professional opportunity.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Disappointment isn't an appointment worth keeping. The way to avoid it is to set your expectations well. This takes both awareness and research. Who are you dealing with? What patterns exist already?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Belief is the code that programs the mind. Once a thing is believed, the perceived world automatically organizes around that belief, which becomes like sheet music that the world plays its song to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The cool lettering on an inspiring picture wants to be the truth, but the truth rarely presents in such a glamorous way. The truth is more likely to be uncomfortably blurted out, its grittiness taking nothing away from its power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People flock to the ocean, pay more to live near it, travel great distances to see it. Its enormity, ceaseless movement and unfathomable danger make it mesmerizing. Romantic love is mesmerizing for the same reasons.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's easier to be philosophical about a thing when you're the one in control of the decisions around it. When decisions are made by others that affect your world, it's action, not philosophy, that puts things right.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Whether or not you land a certain job will depend partly on luck and other circumstances, but keeping it or leveraging it into something even better will be contingent on what you give to the work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People who say they need a fast answer or the offer goes away are using scarcity tactics. If you already know what you want, you don't have to be squeezed for the deal to close.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People are drawn together out of mutual need, and they typically drift apart when those needs either aren't met or are no longer needs. Lasting relationships depend on periodic updates and renewals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Socializing is a dance you're good at, as you easily tune into other people's rhythms. You know when to go forward, pull back, sidestep and more. Because of this, you'll be a sought-after partner.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 9). Your cosmic birthday gift is enough restlessness to fuel a big, beautiful adventure! Emboldened by change, you'll dive into strange environments and come away with many boons and benefits. Developments in your personal life give you a sense of security. You'll be appointed to a position in 2022. Scorpio and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 33, 2, 40 and 15.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

SOLUTIONS

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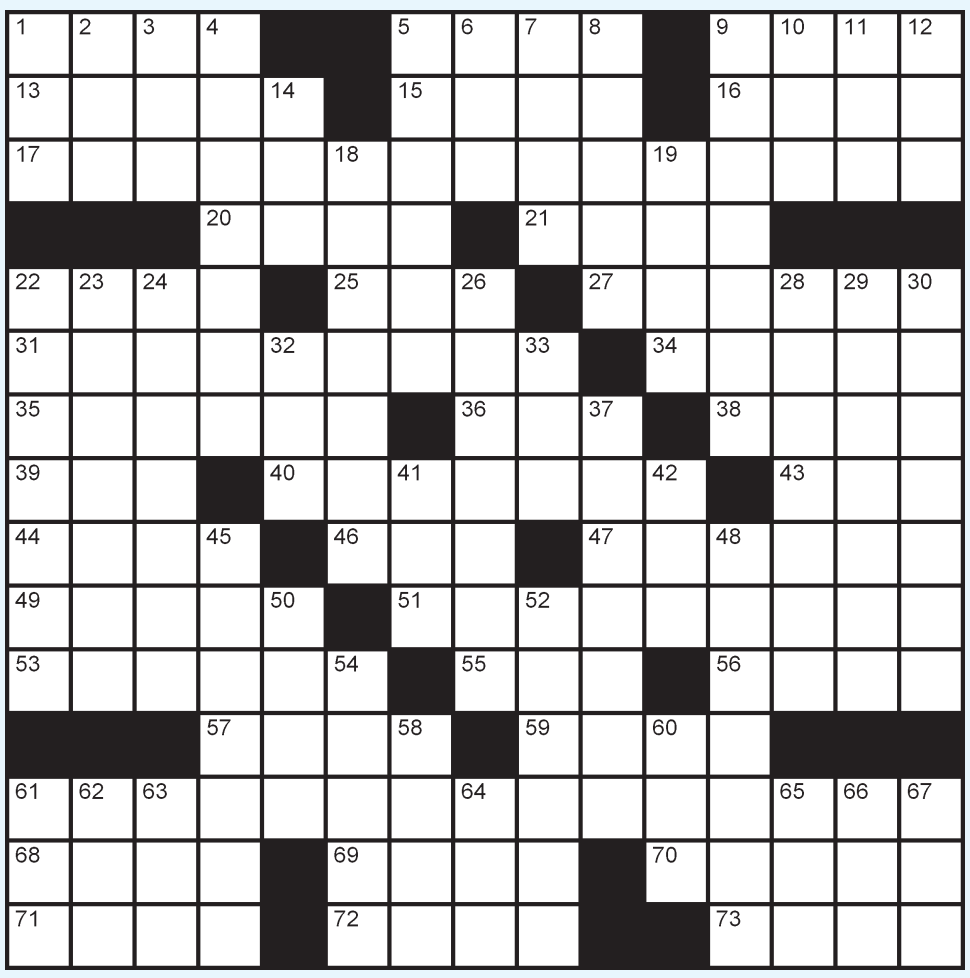
7	4	9	6	1	2	3	8	5

Near Miss *by Rafael Musa*

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



ACROSS
1 Champagne-opening sounds
5 Impulsive
9 Pitfall
13 Country on Hispaniola
15 Meet ___ (encounter in "Love, Simon")
16 Enormous
17 One eschewing synthetic pesticides (see letters 7 to 10 in this answer)
20 Command+Z, on a Mac
21 Gamer who might get pwned
22 "Leave it to me"
25 "Baby Cobra" comedian Wong
27 Islamic law
31 2017 hit whose title contains a fashion brand (4 to 7)
34 "___ you hungry, dear?"
35 Animated aardvark on TV
36 Owned
38 Damaging gossip
39 Liquid-confiscating org.
40 The Gay Nineties and others
43 Take to court
44 Sound of disapproval
46 Flow back
47 Vibes well with a group
49 Modern party notice
51 Go through a purse, perhaps (2 to 5)
53 Sends elsewhere
55 Tourette's symptom
56 Jonathan Van ___ (nonbinary grooming expert on "Queer Eye")
57 "La Vie en Rose" singer Edith
59 Bill dispensers
61 "Almost," or a theme hint
68 Katz's, for one
69 Take time off
70 Group of candidates
71 Viewed
72 Yellowstone grazers
73 Went 90 on I-90, say

DOWN
1 Vietnamese noodle soup
2 Canoe propeller
3 ___ Latin
4 Steadfast
5 Coke competitor
6 Leo's birth mo., often
7 Funny Laurel
8 Give a ___ welcome
9 Shakespeare nickname
10 Seek office
11 At least 30, for a U.S. senator
12 For each
14 Stonewall ___ (site of a seminal uprising in LGBTQ+ history)
18 "That would sound about right"
19 Capital of Qatar
22 "So it seems"
23 Flowing handwriting
24 Pretend
26 Occupy
28 "Fearless (Taylor's Version)," e.g.
29 Utterly destroyed
30 Shows up to
32 Contraception option: Abbr.
33 Wander (about)
37 In reality
41 Oil type at a dispensary
42 Knight's honorific
45 Intervenes
48 Throat parts
50 Most common lake in crosswords
52 16-Across creatures
54 Buffalo NHL player
58 Kerosene, for many jets
60 Roast hosts, briefly
61 LPs' successors
62 California representative Barbara
63 Spanish cheer
64 Sound of disapproval
65 Gender pay ___
66 Devoured
67 Rainbow's top color

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021 *Solar Eclipse Festival*

It's like a festival of cosmic events with the solar eclipse, new moon and a conjunction of the sun to Mercury as well. With all this action in Gemini, the air positively crackles with social excitement, conversational brilliance and a sense that the group is moving forward together in fresh ways. We own the moment; the moment is ours.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Keeping up a frantic pace of life can feel reassuring on some levels, as all the interaction and responsibility can pass for a sense of importance. You'll slow it down and learn something interesting about yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The dance of friendship is complex and seemingly nonsensical. Friends tell each other lies out of kindness, and they tell each other the truth out of kindness, too. These decisions will be instinctive and immediate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Other people's lives may look a certain way from the outside, but they may as well exist on a moon of Jupiter for all you really know about them. There's so much benefit to concerning yourself strictly with your own world today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If the only way you can help others is silly and impractical, you just may be providing a more profound sort of help than you know. Everyone needs levity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The superior satisfaction of self-righteousness can be delicious indeed, which is why so many cannot resist. But judging others is also mightily unattractive, so you may opt to protect your looks with a "live and let live" stance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As much as you enjoy a good story, you also prize the days like this one, where everything goes so smoothly that there is no conflict or obstacle large enough to mention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The so-called secret isn't one. It's not even hidden! And it's not costly either. The "secret" is just another accessible option that people miss because it rather unglamorously blends in. Step back. What's everyone overlooking?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's like only one door can be opened at a time. You open a new one, and that closes all other options. But move forward in confidence anyway because none of your current options is drastically different from the others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have this ability to make other people feel that while they are with you, whatever the two of you are doing is preferable to what anyone else in the world could possibly be up to.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Things don't have to be high-drama to be exciting. In fact, these days, you prefer your drama to be in the world of entertainment, not in your real life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your moods, behaviors, attitudes and actions will go down in history in the sense that others will remember what it's like to interact with you. That reputation will be part of your legacy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Life is not a test with option D, "all of the above," and today you will need to make a definite choice. The good news is making a decision now saves you from making an excuse later.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 10). You know and expect exactly what you want. Your clarity brings about magic. Seldom does something you've wished for just sail in from out of the blue and plop right into your open hand, but that's exactly what will happen. A key relationship opens the door to new professional and financial avenues. Taurus and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 33, 35, 2 and 15.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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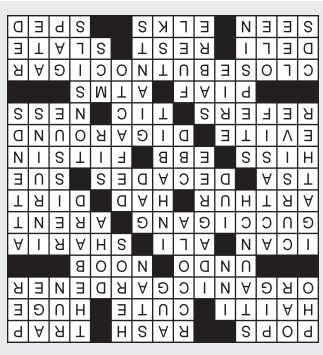
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

SOLUTIONS



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