

K, Whatever by Becca Gorman & Hannah Pucker

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

12x12 crossword grid with numbers 1-73 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Butterfly pose, e.g. 6 Tie holder 10 'So cute!' 13 Meals tossed while they're still fresh... DOWN: 1 'Ooh, I know the answer!' 2 More rational 3 Hawaiian welcome

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021 Rainbow Filters of the Neptune Retrograde



And now Neptune, on a retrograde rampage, changes the filter on our fantasy world so the sparkles, hearts, sunsets and rainbows are readily available at the tap of our imagination.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What can you eliminate? This is what will make your life better today, and it will beat any reorganization or new rule you institute.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everyone is entitled to their preferences. Your preference will be to tend exclusively to your own business, purposely ignoring those who try to impose their personal opinions on the world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're clicking together, the world and you. The world is listening. The world gets you. All you have to do is open your eyes wide, and the world will take this as a cue to educate you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The whole story has yet to be revealed. Ask too many or the wrong kinds of questions and you may never know. But wait and watch. Then watch and wait. Suddenly, you'll find yourself in the know.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe all these signs don't mean you're on the wrong path. Consider that the answer is out there; you just haven't tried enough things to find it yet. Widen the search. Turn over more rocks. Ask more people.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In this building phase, it is only natural to prefer each move improve upon the last. But you will get stuck if you expect constant improvement. The ups, downs, hits and misses are all essential to ultimate success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though you really prefer change to have a ramp-up and adaptation period, life doesn't often accommodate such a preference. The good thing about an unexpected shock is that it forces you to seek out something better.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You love a particular activity so much that it wouldn't matter if you were to fail at it or even if you would be embarrassed by that failure. Nor would success matter too much. The payoff is the work itself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What are you looking forward to? What are you dreading? To do more of the former and avoid the latter would be a mistake. Nothing disempowers dread like diving right in and doing the thing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Trust that everything you've learned is worth learning. What felt like a detour (and a costly one at that) still has plenty of applications, though you'll strain yourself if you force it. Resolve to have no regrets and move forward in faith.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Question why you need things to be a certain way. Sometimes particularness comes out of a desire to be treated as important or special, and other times the details must be correct to serve the greater good. Which is it?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Today's conversations have the potential to get chaotic. Your deft steering away from the minefields will help matters. When in doubt, stick to the main roads and rely on tone to trump content

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 25). You have so much social intelligence at your disposal that you don't even realize the advantage in it. Your solar year brings numerous opportunities to play these cards, parlaying yourself into a higher position or a sweeter one, scooping up the resources to help your loved ones and the ideas to rock your world. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 38, 1, 16 and 54.

Universal SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. Includes a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled and a difficulty rating of 4 stars.

SOLUTIONS A 9x9 grid showing the completed solution for the Sudoku puzzle above.

Highs and Lows by Jasper Davidoff

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

12x12 crossword grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 '60 Minutes' network 4 Peas' place 7 Supporter 10 Golfer's standard 13 Like Los Angeles in July... DOWN: 1 'Popular cooking show 2 Wild pig 3 War-themed board game 4 Slow-cooked meat dishes

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2021 Venus the Catwoman



Venus slips on a catsuit and walks as cats do, which is to say up on the toes in the "digitigrade posture," which allows for quick, quiet agility and a pouncing advantage in play and over prey.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What people expect of you could have the effect of cheering you on. However, you probably feel more like those expectations are looming over you, nagging and negging you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It is often the case when an artist creates a masterpiece that the inertia takes over and subsequently carries the action for a long stretch. A beautiful rut is still a rut. You are the artist. Stay active in the design of your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Those moments, like a zephyr of mental chaos through your brain, can serve to energize you if you relax and let it blow through. It leaves little behind, but what does remain will be treasure -- a gift from the ether.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Here come the unexpected stimuli and restraints. You roll with this sort of thing, having learned lessons in control long ago. Managing every little thing is a waste of time. Let it inspire you instead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Why waste your time being disappointed at people who will never change when there's a whole world of go-getters out there waiting to help you with your next idea?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's almost nothing you can successfully accomplish using just your mind today. Unless your body and spirit are involved, the thing will fall flat and prove unworthy of further attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What's happening in an interaction is nuanced. The terms of the agreement aren't the real exchange; that goes unstated, involving a subconscious tender too raw for one or more parties to recognize or admit to.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Collaborate with everybody. Outsiders, insiders, customers, critics -- they all help to illuminate the task at hand. Brilliance is an emergent quality of diverse groups.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Gaming sharpens skills that will have real-world consequences. The game you thought was pointless is actually the entire point, only in metaphoric form and much plays out just as the game did.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The thing that looks easy may have taken a person hours or years to create. This is something to keep in mind before you start the discussion, compliment, criticize or follow in kind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've so many options that it would be easy to spread yourself too thin. To avoid that shortcut to burnout, decide what you need upfront and make sure those requirements are a top priority before you say yes to anything else.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). "The future is here," said science-fiction writer William Gibson. "It's just not widely distributed yet." You'll aid in that distribution today with your forward-thinking contribution.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 26). Your cosmic boon will be a rain of disruptive creativity that spills into relationships and projects, imbuing them with an epic quest-like feeling. Your tremendous powers of originality can be applied in so many ways, and, notably, you'll arrange your schedule and environment to honor your most interesting pursuits. Aquarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 44, 38 and 41.

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