

Double Cross by Don Gagliardo

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Bypass
 - 5 Ships that were measured in cubits
 - 9 Warnings from Fido
 - 13 Initial poker contributions
 - 15 Emmy-winning comedian Love
 - 16 Stir up
 - 17 2-Down + 5-Down?
 - 19 Name that anagrams to "Mary"
 - 20 Pigpen
 - 21 "Here's the deal ..."
 - 22 Short-long metrical foot
 - 23 Walk heavily
 - 24 Fashion imprint
 - 26 Respond to a job ad
 - 29 Thing in the plus column
 - 32 Pro shop pegs
 - 33 Grassland
 - 38 Actress Thurman
 - 39 Eco-friendly org.
 - 40 34-Down + 25-Down?
 - 41 Debt letters
 - 42 Trojans' sch.
 - 43 Abandon
 - 44 Abbr. before a recipient's name
 - 45 Musical composition
 - 47 ___ tooth (love of sugar)
 - 48 Some online product services
 - 51 Smoke duct
 - 53 ___ gin
 - 55 "Asteroids" consoles
 - 57 Babysitter's challenge
 - 60 Middle of a planet
 - 61 They sound more similar than they look ... and are central to this puzzle's theme
 - 63 Austrian mountains
 - 64 "It slipped!"
 - 65 Greek I's
 - 66 Bottom of a statue
 - 67 "What ___ is new?"
 - 68 Letter format?
- DOWN**
- 1 French for "without"
 - 2 Tree protuberance
 - 3 ___-bitty
 - 4 Princess's annoyance
 - 5 Audibly
 - 6 Spreadsheet divisions
 - 7 Prepare to pop the question
 - 8 Better half?
 - 9 They clash in battle
 - 10 16-Across + 47-Across?
 - 11 Unwavering
 - 12 Chunk of bacon
 - 14 In a cunning manner
 - 18 Bloke's bathroom
 - 23 Start of a texter's request, maybe
 - 25 Cry loudly
 - 26 Wolfed down
 - 27 Cola wars side
 - 28 45-Across + 60-Across?
 - 30 Act theatrically
 - 31 Jeer at
 - 33 Cambridge sch.
 - 34 Miss the mark
 - 35 Org. that accredits law schools
 - 36 Castellaneta who voices Homer
 - 37 Like antiques
 - 40 Crossing the Caribbean, say
 - 44 Admiration
 - 46 "Big" or "blue" follower
 - 47 Dish served with wasabi
 - 49 Lake partially in Nevada
 - 50 Piano accompaniment?
 - 51 Cold, pink cocktail
 - 52 ChapStick target
 - 53 Worker during a strike
 - 54 "Whatever ___ Wants" ("Damn Yankees" song)
 - 56 Rock concert blasters
 - 57 Fanatical about
 - 58 Spiteful
 - 59 (Over here!)
 - 62 "I didn't see that wall!"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021 New Moon In Libra; Pluto Goes Direct



The end of the Pluto retrograde signals the start of something big. The Libra new moon seconds the motion! Moving mountains is not impossible; it's just hard. Is there a version of what you want that doesn't involve changing the landscape? If you consider all options and the mountain still has to go, it will be doable with the right crew and tools.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The unexpected will happen, and your schedule will seem to laugh in your face, but it's still better to have a plan than not. Keeping track of what's working will help you later.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The abandoned learn self-sufficiency. The neglected develop an inner world. The unsupported get strong. You are grateful for the unpleasantness you've experienced because it's given you your most valuable assets.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Something prevents you from doing what you want, but this doesn't have to stand in your way for long. Think of it as an opportunity to clear obstacles and take back your power.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll invest in a person, company or mission. The benefits will not be immediate or direct, but they will come. In time, this move will bring good fortune from unexpected directions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When a practice no longer gets results for you, it will be a blessing to move on to trying something else. There are more options than you have time to explore, and you'll soon be hot on the trail of a new discovery.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). An ambitious mood has you overestimating what you can accomplish in a day. So give yourself three. With consistent effort, you will soon hit your marks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Even though the facts seem to point to the same conclusion, it is at least partially incorrect. Something is amiss. Take this apart again. More information is needed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The best way to get what you want is to ask for it at the right time with a clear, strong voice. Ask with your eyes and with your whole body and being. And finally, get confirmation that your request was heard.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you believe the best of everyone you meet, you're bound to be wrong sometimes. You'd much rather err on the side of spiritual generosity. Most people will rise to your wonderful expectation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Boredom causes misbehavior in children, animals and, most notably today, in full-grown adults. You'll make sure to have something interesting to do that you can include others in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Skills worth acquiring involve hours of practice. In matters of trial and error, most of the learning will come from the "error" part. As you rack up the mistakes, you improve.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're supportive of people because you believe in them, but also because your support is a way of showing love. A loved one could really use the vote of confidence today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 6). Loyalty is a lifestyle. Devotion shapes your days, and you derive so much joy from giving yourself to your loved ones. Relationships will make you healthier in more ways than one. There's a stellar moneymaking opport

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

2	3	9	7	5	4	8	1	6
4	1	5	4	1	9	8	6	3
7	6	8	1	3	2	9	5	4
3	9	6	8	7	5	1	4	2
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8	9	6	3	2	7	5	1	4
1	2	4	7	9	5	3	8	6

Undercover by Roger Miller

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Metal pieces on some belts
 - 6 Scheme
 - 10 Drops the ball
 - 14 Lock horns
 - 15 City near Lake Tahoe
 - 16 Italy's shape
 - 17 Alex Trebek's closing line on "Jeopardy!" (In this clue's answer, see letters 1 to 4)
 - 20 It's a mess
 - 21 ___ brat
 - 22 Mortarboard attachment
 - 23 Classic Father's Day gift
 - 24 Scatter
 - 25 Pool temperature tester
 - 26 Method for determining an artifact's age (... letters 4 to 7)
 - 32 Earthy pigment
 - 33 Dads
 - 34 Egg on
 - 38 38, for a 19x2 rectangle
 - 39 Supersized
 - 41 Slip through the cracks?
 - 42 Sometimes-green drinks
 - 43 Big fuss
 - 44 Rude look
 - 45 "I'm doing it no matter what!" (... letters 2 to 5)
 - 49 "This means ___"
 - 52 Sweet potato
 - 53 Brazilian Carnival city, briefly
 - 54 Public relations concerns
 - 56 Coin that may feature the Vitruvian Man
 - 57 One keeps a beaver busy
 - 60 2019 film whose secret agent protagonist becomes a pigeon, and a theme hint
 - 63 "If all ___ fails ..."
 - 64 Monopoly card
 - 65 Message with a "To:" line
 - 66 Stink to high heaven
 - 67 Almost forever
 - 68 Leaves for lunch?
- DOWN**
- 1 Lip
 - 2 Turkey ___ (fall run)
 - 3 Like a tacky sweater
 - 4 Group such as Outkast
 - 5 Washington post
 - 6 Aspiring doctor's track, informally
 - 7 Impose, as a tax
 - 8 Unified
 - 9 Hare's fabled opponent
 - 10 Flows back
 - 11 It's for the birds
 - 12 Drive in Beverly Hills
 - 13 Pizzazz
 - 18 Broad smile
 - 19 Sign of boredom
 - 24 Certain way to go to a party
 - 26 Jacket
 - 27 4,840 square yards
 - 28 Perlman of "Cheers"
 - 29 Lion, tiger or bear
 - 30 Cook's garment
 - 31 Zest
 - 35 Bring in the sheaves
 - 36 Start of an idea
 - 37 Duel tool
 - 39 Put on hold
 - 40 Levine of Maroon 5
 - 44 Moe, Curly and Larry
 - 46 Light or dark loaves
 - 47 Members of an ancient Celtic religion
 - 48 "Dear" ones
 - 49 More sensible
 - 50 Easily sufficient
 - 51 Poker ploy
 - 55 Nerd
 - 56 Fall garden?
 - 57 Watch face
 - 58 China setting
 - 59 Pinochle combo
 - 61 "The Matrix" hero
 - 62 Name within "human"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021 Venus Gets Adventurous



Venus in Sagittarius explodes our past understanding of what love is. The fiery energy will embolden the shy, illuminate unforeseen options and magnetize us to new locations and social circles. When Venus transits Sagittarius, nothing seems out of the league when it comes to love because love isn't a sport; it's an adventure.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Not all inaction is alike. Doing nothing out of fear, laziness or confusion is very different from doing nothing because the best move is not to move. Today calls for disciplined inaction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You offer your compassion to others so easily. Can you offer it more readily to yourself, too? All work and no play is an unkind approach. Relax and have fun. It's good for you and necessary to your well-being.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No one becomes masterfully skilled overnight. What seems like it's happening in the spur of the moment is actually the culmination of hours of preparation. Be patient with yourself as you work on a new skill.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Partnerships that are closed off from the rest of the world will not have enough emotional oxygen to thrive. A friendship will be improved by shared experiences and outside influences. Stay open.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Accessible things will seem less interesting to you now because you crave challenge. Like a diver after pearls, you'll plunge the depths to search for what is truly rare and beautiful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've a specific knowledge and expertise best understood by those in the same area of interest. Your ideas are good. The people around you aren't necessarily qualified to judge.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some of your reasons for doing what you do are mysterious even to you. That's normal. The most helpful move in your relationship with yourself will be to exchange all judgment for acceptance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The old way of thinking won't work for this new challenge. To see the way forward, you'll need to move away from the ideas that are so comfortable to you. The next turn must be made in faith.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some bring out the best in you by way of their support, friendship and love. Others spur you to new heights from a place of competition or opposition. Either way, you only get better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are plenty of people around who, with the slightest provocation, will be forthcoming with help, advice and more. But this time, you'll really get more interesting results by trying to figure it out on your own.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will readily see how your mood impacts the moods of others. Since making yourself happy will help everyone, what are you waiting for? Do the thing that will bring smiles all around.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are seen in different ways by different people. Sometimes, you can shape this, but today, it's a bit out of your control. The best you can do is relax and be confident in your choices and it will all work out for the best.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 7). Your cosmic birthday present is a perspective shift and an awe-inspiring encounter. The way you choose to see things leads to more of the miraculous. Due to the improvements and projects you take on, you're one person at the start of 2022 and someone different at the close. Aquarius and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 3, 33, 18 and 5.

Universal SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

SOLUTIONS

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8	7	9	5	6	1	4	2	3
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1	4	2	3	1	4	6	7	5
2	3	1	4	5	6	7	8	9