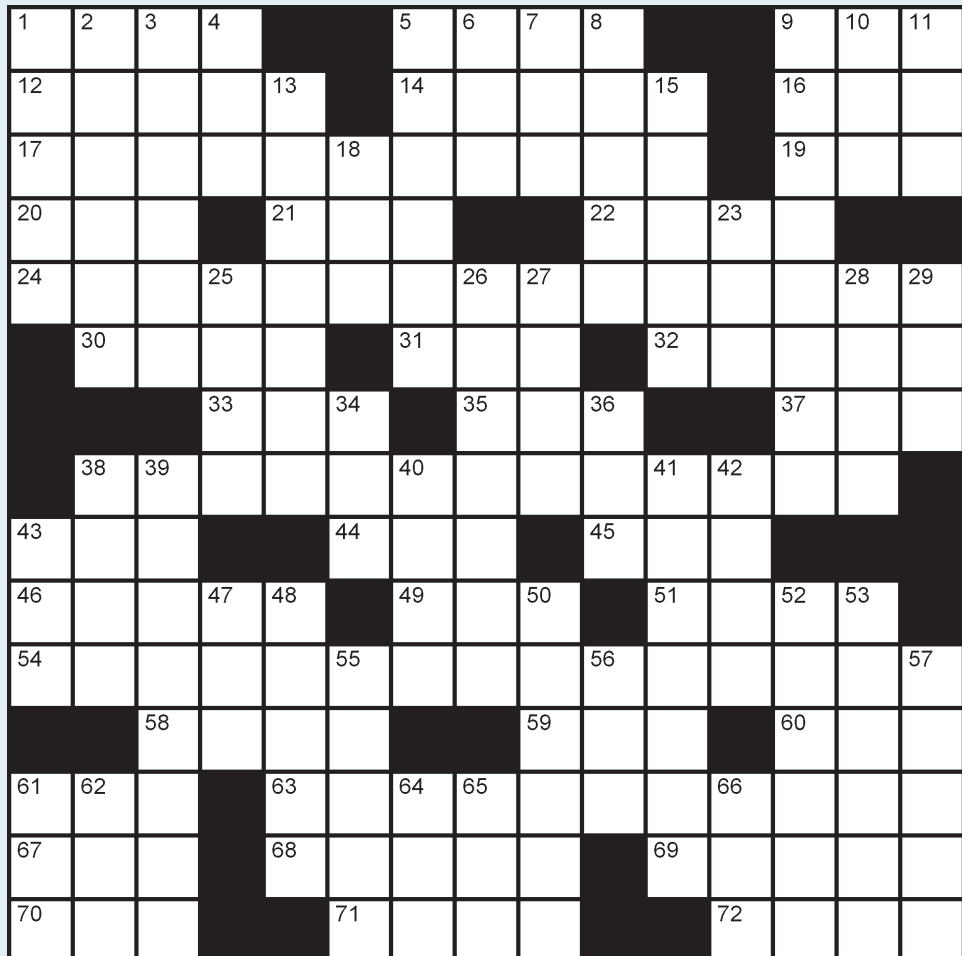


Inside Job by Paul Coulter

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Succotash ingredient, 5 Small mattress size, 9 Touch with a stylus, 12 Codeine source, 14 Pie cuts, essentially, 16 Add years to one's life, 17 Where to find a snake in the glass, 19 Oui's opposite, 20 Exist, 21 Word before "cucumber" or "salt", 22 One has a maturity date, 24 Desperate attempt, 30 Eyelid concern, 31 "\_\_\_-hood!", 32 Bottom of the ocean, 33 E or G, e.g., 35 Jean-\_\_\_ Picard of "Star Trek", 37 Mr. Rogers, 38 Choice when paying with a card, 43 \_\_\_ Paulo, 44 Criticize harshly, 45 Wintry, in product names, 46 Sarcastic commentary, 49 Name that's a cozy room backward, 51 London streetcar, 54 They help you get the big picture, 58 Food sticker?, 59 "Wheels", 60 Season opener?, 61 John in court cases, 63 Fragrant grain, 67 Wikipedia is free of them, 68 Made angry, 69 Didn't chicken out, 70 "\$20 on red," say, in roulette, 71 Fill completely, 72 Pronoun on a certain towel, DOWN: 1 Reef material, 2 Divas' productions, 3 Most ready to pick, 4 Crunchy source of protein, 5 Pact, 6 Card game for two, 7 Vow at the altar, 8 Weeper of myth, 9 Indian cooking style named for an oven, 10 Earlier, 11 Notetaker's choice, 13 Something wrong, 15 "See ya!", 18 Necklace that wraps around "Leah Remini", 23 Super Bowl org., 25 Small child, 26 Silver eagle wearer, in the military, 27 Two to three, for one, 28 Turnip or beet, 29 "Don't give up!", 34 Sharp bark, 36 Songs can be burned onto them, 38 Kid's plea, 39 Exam that often includes parallel parking, 40 Sharp flavor, 41 Typed in, 42 Delivered from the womb, 43 Opposite NNE, 47 Big name in hiking gear, 48 Japanese writing system, 50 Choose, 52 Aim ambitiously, 53 "Moon River" lyricist Johnny, 55 Approaches, 56 PC linkup, 57 Tournament's top competitors, often, 61 Apply gently, 62 Homage in verse, 64 Genre for The Waiters, 65 Bumped into, 66 "Go team!"

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021 Neptune Goes Direct



Most regrets have at their root a bad decision. To minimize our regrets, we can maximize our good decisions. Of course, if we knew the right choice in the moment, we would make it every time. The key is to give ourselves the best shot at knowing, to do what it takes to have a clear head. The turn of Neptune blows the fog away.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your mastery of a skill depends on accurate feedback. Which opinion is correct? Gather them all, but don't act on any yet. Time will shake things out and sort them for you. By the end of the week, only the truth will remain.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are brave, persistent and focused on the right thing for you and yours. The courage of your convictions is a powerfully attractive force, and by the end of the week, you'll find you have allies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have your hand on the dial of your own intensity. You can take any emotion you feel and turn it up or down as needed. Combine this talent with your ability to read the room and you're unstoppable.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Yes, something has slipped out of your grip and now you long to have and hold it. The good news is this is lost but not gone. It will, however, take work to get it back. Extend your reach.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't wait until you need something badly or are frustrated, angry or anxious to move yourself into a better state of mind. However you feel, raise it. Why shouldn't you live in an optimum, powerful state of mind?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). On your mind will be matters of citizenship, fairness and leadership. You've a gut instinct for what's right, but it's still important to process the facts with an open mind because the lesson is in an integration of gut and intellect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Obtain what's necessary to move forward. This is probably a skill or tool. Success depends on a belief. Try this one on for size: It was always meant to be yours; you just have to claim it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The Chinese proverb says, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." But it's not until step 233 that you begin to feel like you're really going somewhere.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). All of the things that money can't buy -- love, respect, profound glamour, real connection -- require complex kinds of work. To imagine, plot and execute your plans will feel like play.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time, but oh, how the objects will keep trying! The spirit of competition and the inevitability of collision keeps it interesting in a highly charged atmosphere.

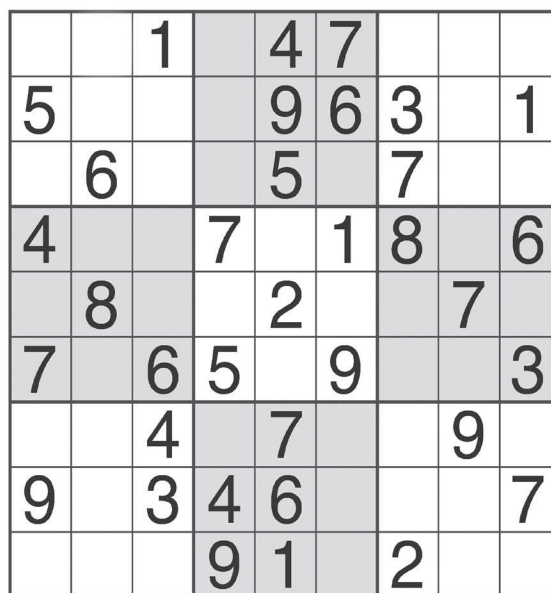
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a certain part of your life that's not a pretty picture. Consider that it may not be the picture's fault. Maybe it's the frame. Framing it differently will change your view entirely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Get clear about what you want. Ranking your options in order of desirability, from your top-tier arrangement to your bottom-line necessities, will bring good fortune to your realm.

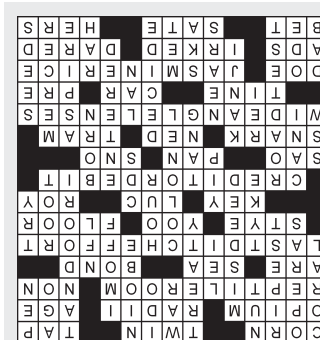
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 1). What you do you will do with style. Instead of requiring more money, time and effort, you'll use less. The specific decisions that are so you are bolder than they are expensive. You have a full heart, and love in many forms flows through 2022. It will be impossible to be too generous in this regard as giving amplifies your resources. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 2, 22, 19 and 40.

Universal SUDOKU

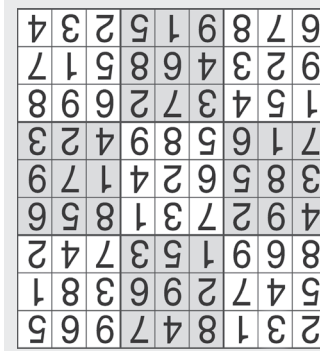
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

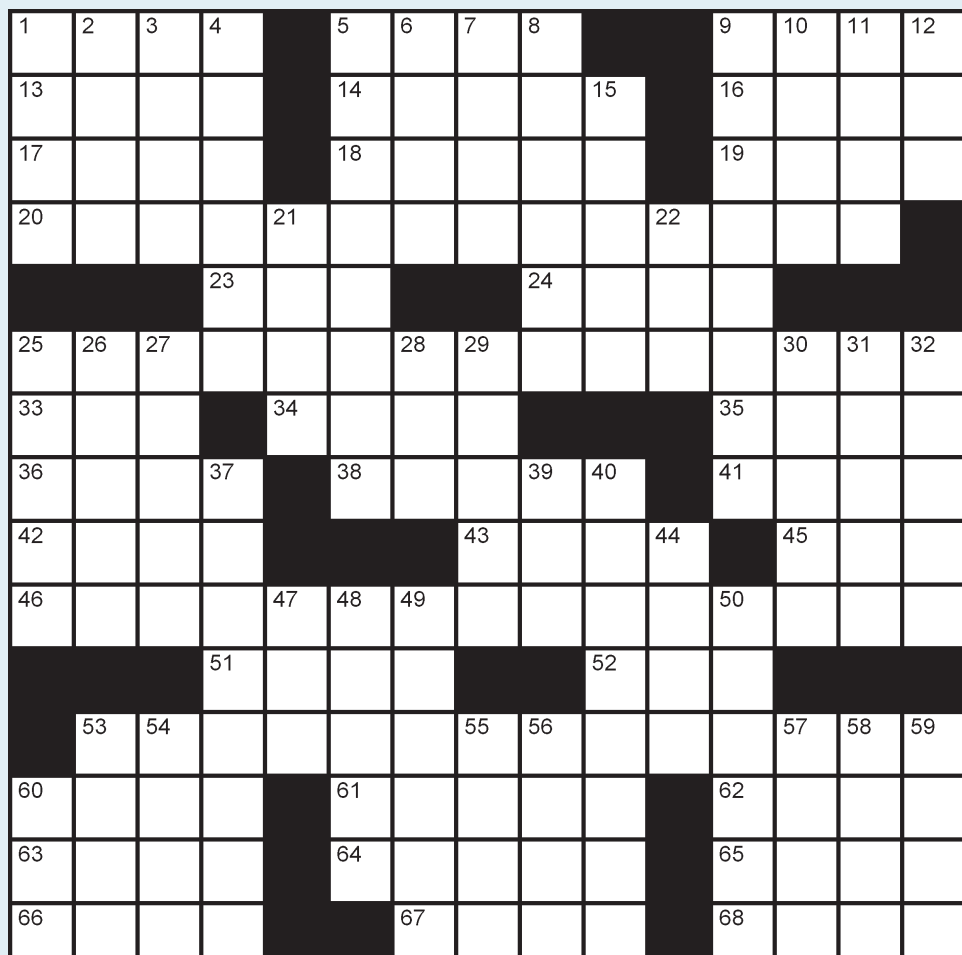


SOLUTIONS



What Are the Odds? by Alex Eaton-Salners

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Ilhan in the House, 5 Lacking, 9 Prada products, 13 Zippo, 14 Nail the midterm, 16 Alphabetically last four-letter state, 17 Friendly talk, 18 L, on a shirt tag, 19 Foal's father, 20 Linearity, literally?, 23 Traffic control grp.?, 24 Muscat's country, 25 Family that Goldilocks annoyed, literally?, 33 Off-road transport, briefly, 34 Nighttime bugle call, 35 Dispatched, as a giant, 36 Decorative pillow cover, 38 Mature like a plum, 41 Filleted flatfish, 42 \_\_\_ and shine, 43 Doesn't get badly injured, 45 Pocket place, 46 Like every Shakespeare play, literally?, 51 Cosmologist, 52 "Silly me!", 53 Soda with a lemon-lime flavor, literally?, 60 Spoken, 61 Paint-and-sip class fixture, 62 Stereo alternative, 63 Slender stinger, 64 Pine, e.g., for air freshener, 65 Be an omen of, 66 "Let It Go" singer in "Frozen", 67 Partner of "crafts", 68 Mail opening, DOWN: 1 How some software is stored, 2 When repeated, a Hawaiian fish, 3 He lived in Eden, 4 Like "It" but not "Big", 5 Where to go for a dip?, 6 Brazilian berry, 7 Emperor who watched Rome burn, 8 Mister, in Italian, 9 Word with "funny" or "monkey", 10 Working hard, 11 Coleman of "Diff'rent Strokes", 12 Pronoun for Maya Angelou, 15 San Jose Sharks and New York Jets, 21 Baby sparrow's home, 22 Titration setting, 25 City whose name aptly anagrams to "Arabs", 26 Work \_\_\_ (employee's principle), 27 Pirate's "Stop!", 28 \_\_\_ Pen, 29 Wobbly dish, 30 Hello, in Honolulu, 31 Archaeological find, 32 Maneuvered a curling broom, 37 "My bad," formally, 39 Dec. hours in Boston, 40 Words on a treehouse door, perhaps, 44 Single-serving coffee pod, 47 Place to stick a feather, 48 Aligns, 49 Llama's relative, 50 Digits to wrestle, 53 Russian range or river, 54 "Hard \_\_\_!" ("That's a big no!"), 55 App downloader, 56 Cooped (up), 57 Where to go for a dip, 58 Cancel, as a command, 59 One may write an ode, 60 Middle of IOU

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021 Seduction Moon



There's a reason for the magnetism of seductive characters. They speak to the voids in us. If we weren't lacking in some way, they would have nothing to hook onto. So, there is something for you in the seduction. The question becomes whether the seducer will really deliver it. This message was brought to you by the moon in seductive Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Breathe easy, take frequent breaks from your work and get plenty of sleep and exercise. Make your own pleasure and well-being a higher priority.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Competition for a certain spot will be stiff. Just because you have what it takes doesn't mean it's worth the trouble. Think more about what you want and how well the current offerings really fit the bill.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It seems like everyone needs you at once, and maybe that's part of the deal when you're good at what you do. Keep in mind that you have the choice of when to respond. Other people's urgency doesn't have to be yours.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your memory will be strong and undiscerning, recalling important and useless facts alike. But the thing is, you won't know which is which, so revel in it all. Sometimes the slightest detail is the key to everything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you need another reason to get out and socialize, consider that you'll see yourself objectively as someone else experiences you for the first time. Valuable insights will be gained from your interactions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are those who think they are good at something regardless of how good they actually are. Don't let yourself be bamboozled by overconfidence. Ask for proof of skill. Getting the right person for the job is a game changer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have the freedom to believe as you wish and openly express it. This is a freedom people have fought and died for and you don't take it for granted, even as you exercise the opposite right to keep things to yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your attempts to rearrange your world seem futile because they are. These moves and inquiries won't eliminate suffering, only transmute it. The way to eliminate the problem is to greet the moment and accept it exactly how it is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stories can be like hot meals that cool off as soon as they're served. Timing is everything. Knowing what to trim is key. It's worth working out before you tell it because your stories reflect you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). One theory is that money buys you the freedom to arrange life to your preferences. In practice it will not be so. The more you can do with creativity and strategy the better, as money will complicate things beyond belief.

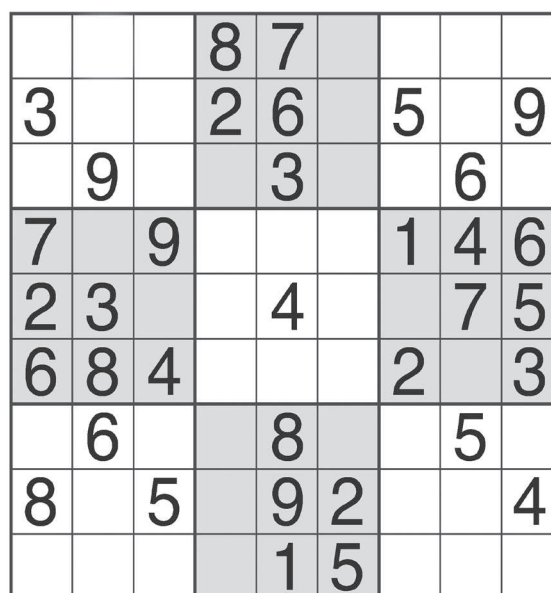
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can handle any nonemotional truth on its face. You can work with any fact and deal with stark realities. It's when feelings get involved that the difficulties arise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In determinate games, the starting player can always win with the right strategy. In indeterminate games, two perfect players could play on forever. You will play with elegance in an indeterminate game, for instance, love.

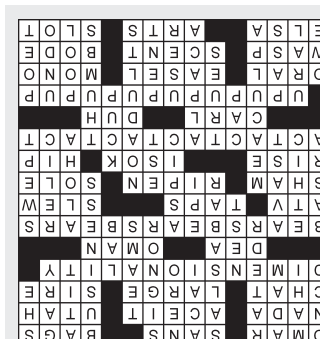
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 2). When you're not so sure what's in your mind and heart, your feet will know. They'll take you out the door and straight to the hidden goals of your soul. Trust yourself! The new year brings clarity, peace, adventure, success and love. A lucky streak starts with the exchange of property or a significant sale. Aquarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 2, 22, 29 and 48.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

