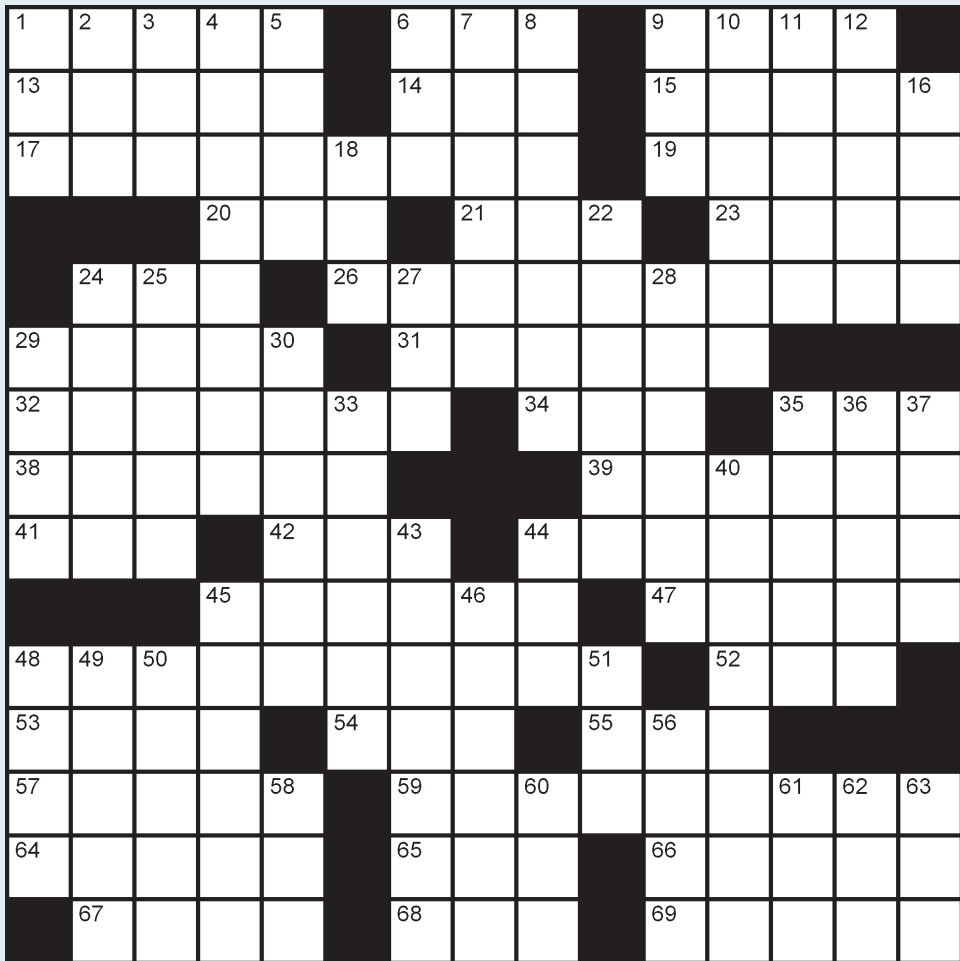


Down Clue by Hanh Huynh

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Brag
 - 6 Raise a paddle at an auction
 - 9 Hole punchers
 - 13 Radio knob
 - 14 Had dinner, say
 - 15 Use as a bed
 - 17 *How most loans are repaid
 - 19 Opening words
 - 20 Mike's partner in candy
 - 21 "Rushmore" director Anderson
 - 23 Outfit for one who's en pointe
 - 24 It can last a lifetime
 - 26 *One-hit wonder, for example
 - 29 "Cold, hard" statements
 - 31 More pretentious
 - 32 "That's probably a good idea"
 - 34 Sketch comedy show, briefly
 - 35 "Cheers" bartender
 - 38 Singer Warwick
 - 39 (Giggle)
 - 41 Artist Yoko
- DOWN**
- 1 Texter's "Incidentally ..."
 - 2 French affirmative
 - 3 "A Bug's Life" insect
 - 4 "The Outsiders" author
 - 5 Difficult hike
 - 6 Honey
 - 7 Fighting words
 - 8 Finds repulsive
 - 9 Comedian Wong
 - 10 Season in House Stark's motto
 - 11 Abate
 - 12 Kind of, casually
 - 16 New York is a proper one
 - 18 One wearing a bow tie in a ring
 - 22 Japanese religion
 - 24 Washbowl
 - 25 Sneeze sound
 - 27 Wee fellow
 - 28 Montana's capital
 - 29 Classic dog name
 - 30 Relative of a banana split
 - 33 Benefits from mistakes
 - 35 They're used to being fleeced
- ACROSS**
- 20 Beer first shipped to Madras and Calcutta, briefly
 - 21 "Rushmore" director Anderson
 - 23 Outfit for one who's en pointe
 - 24 It can last a lifetime
 - 26 *One-hit wonder, for example
 - 29 "Cold, hard" statements
 - 31 More pretentious
 - 32 "That's probably a good idea"
 - 34 Sketch comedy show, briefly
 - 35 "Cheers" bartender
 - 38 Singer Warwick
 - 39 (Giggle)
 - 41 Artist Yoko
- DOWN**
- 36 Cigna competitor
 - 37 Small plateau
 - 40 Like flour with restored nutrients
 - 43 Inspired by
 - 44 Action at the poker table
 - 45 Calico fabric used for upholstery
 - 46 Intense, as competition
 - 48 Wait on the phone
 - 49 "Rumor has it ..."
 - 50 Country west of Togo
 - 51 Informal answer to "Is the pope Catholic?"
 - 56 Bite at a Spanish bar
 - 58 "___ who?!"
 - 60 Poem hidden in "good effort"
 - 61 Word after "black" or "pack"
 - 62 Short rest
 - 63 Nobel invention, for short

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021 Moody Moon



For the modern human, the greatest pains of life are emotional and existential. On the bright side, these sorts of aches can be the birth pangs of brilliant ideas. The moody Pisces moon will run through a psychological range, giving us the opportunity and sensitivity to feel a wide array of emotions, transmutable into creative gold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Anger is not *like* a drug; it *is* a drug. It alters a person's chemistry more effectively than a lot of other substances. Keep this in mind while dealing with people who seem to lean on this emotion. Maybe it's not about you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even the self-made have teachers, perhaps in the form of books or role models. Why limit your influences or accept the first instructor to come along? You'll love what happens when you proactively choose your mentors.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As character-building as rejection is, there's no reason to get more of it than necessary. Before you put your project or yourself out there, find out what it typically takes to get to yes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Success will seem to take forever and include one near miss after another until you begin to wonder if you're ever going to get there. Push through the dip. When you hit, you'll hit a jackpot.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Small things can have life-changing intensity. One pinch of hot chili pepper changes the dish. One spark lights the fire. One smoldering look can set off a chain affecting generations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Love gives more than it takes. You'll feel enlarged by everything you deliver in love, and others will be bigger for everything they give in the same spirit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In today's case, impulsivity will be a minus. Before you make the move you are contemplating, talk it out with someone knowledgeable and reasonable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Old pictures, past social

media posts and historic texts will be part of the texture of this day. Some artifacts make you smile. As for the cringeworthy ones, let them represent how far you've come. Celebrate growth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be asked to handle other people's problems. You'd like to. It would be easier. But then you'll have to do it every time, and when you're not around they'll suffer. The kind way is to help others be self-sufficient.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll win. Stay humble and quiet about the victory for now, if not out of modesty, then for strategy. Competition is everywhere. And even when people don't want to compete with you, success changes the social dynamic.

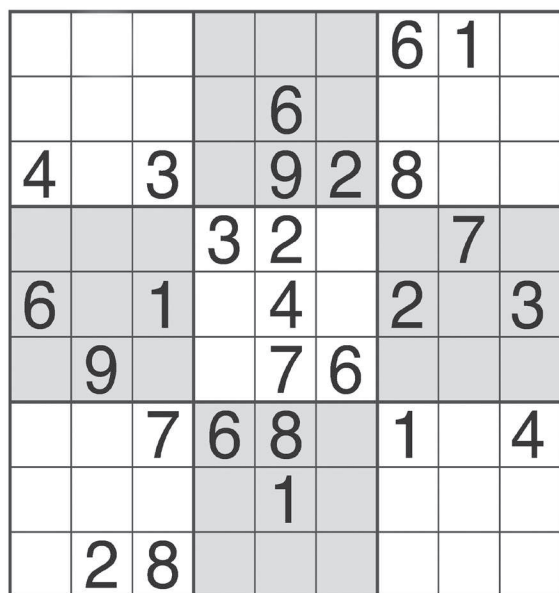
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The muses will be tardy. Don't wait on them. Inspiration will start to trickle in after you get working. The principle applies to your social life too. Friends will hop on a train that's already in motion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Adaptability is one of your many gifts. You come across the odd and unexpected, beyond your expertise and outside of your preference. And yet still ... you get used to it, make the most of it, turn it all to your advantage.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 10). Your cosmic gift is one of great presence and magnetism. It allows you to speak with silence and impart messages that suggest more than words allow. You'll use this to lead people, facilitate lucky connections and make it easy for people to create significant, beautiful and helpful things as a group. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 4, 44 and 19.

Universal SUDOKU

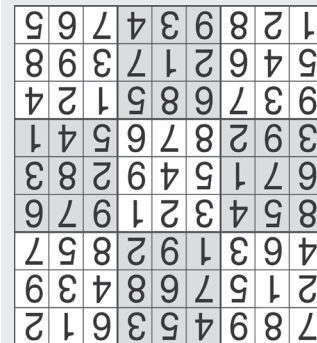
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

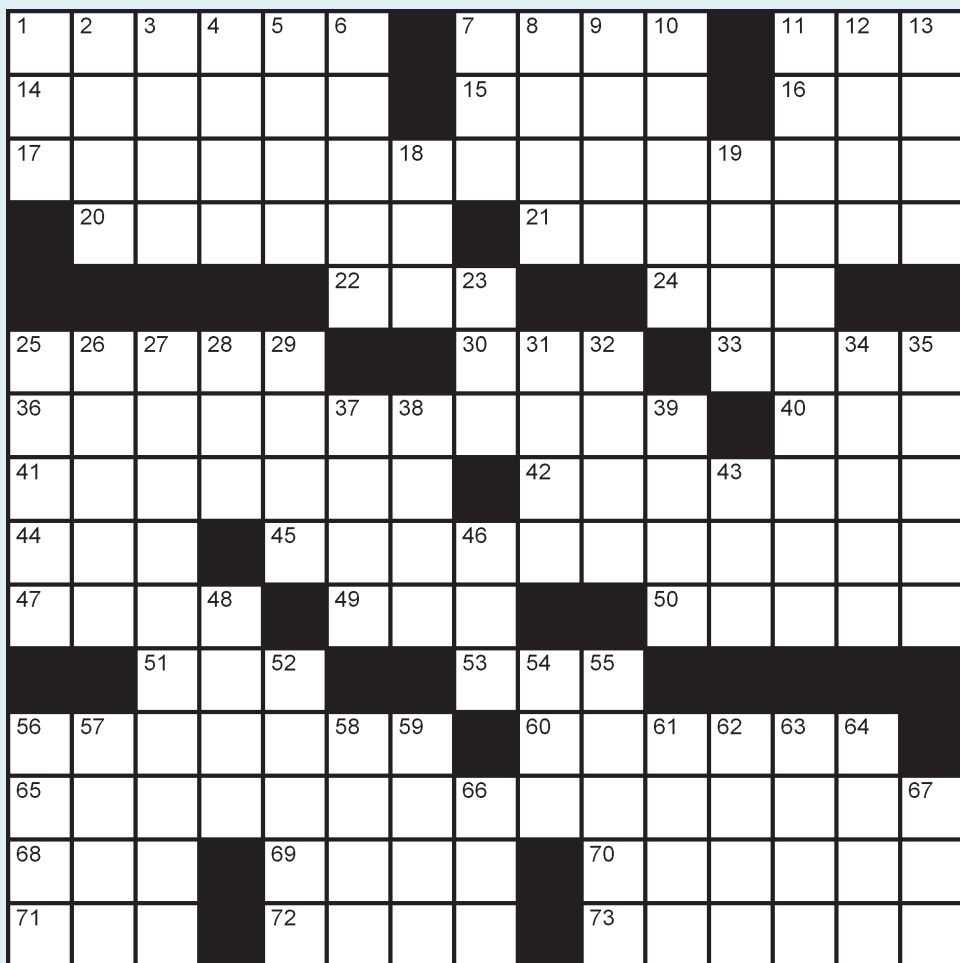


SOLUTIONS



Natural Inclination by George Jasper

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Rafkin



- ACROSS**
- 1 Transparent eye part
 - 7 South Pacific nation
 - 11 Break in continuity
 - 14 Cooks, like clams
 - 15 Cheese in a red wax
 - 16 Game with a Wild Draw Four card
 - 17 *Slanted text
 - 20 Person up on a soapbox, maybe
 - 21 Erases
 - 22 "Bottled or ___?" (waiter's question)
 - 24 House call?
 - 25 Preamble
 - 30 www.indiana.____
 - 33 Worry
 - 36 *Structure that tourists "hold up" in photos
 - 40 Attorney's field
 - 41 ___ kick (soccer move named for a cutting tool)
 - 42 Slight trace
 - 44 "Ten Responses to the Phrase '___ Up'" (Guante poem)
- DOWN**
- 1 Long-running CBS drama
 - 45 *Column with an angle
 - 47 "Into the Unknown" singer in "Frozen 2"
 - 49 Get the picture
 - 50 Like some wine barrels
 - 51 Tats
 - 53 Chow line?
 - 56 "Quit fidgeting!"
 - 60 More greasy
 - 65 *Piece of equipment with rungs and sliding sections
 - 68 Gibbon or bonobo, e.g.
 - 69 A bit wet
 - 70 Name that sounds like a self-description of each starred clue's answer
 - 71 Word paired with "neither"
 - 72 "At once!"
 - 73 Gets hot on social media
- ACROSS**
- 2 Apt name for a race car driver
 - 3 Raise, like a child
 - 4 Beyonce's role in "The Lion King"
 - 5 Give off
 - 6 Fred's neckwear in "Scooby-Doo"
 - 7 Hat with tassels
 - 8 Pointed a finger at?
 - 9 Green gemstone prized in China
 - 10 Insinuate
 - 11 Bit of embellishment in a rock song
 - 12 Actress/model Watanabe
 - 13 Soup-cooking vessels
 - 18 Playwright Levin
 - 19 Place to see clown fish
 - 23 Word before "talk" or "rally"
 - 25 Unhelpful response to "Who's there?"
 - 26 Super lite
 - 27 Artemis, to Apollo
 - 28 High-___ monitor
 - 29 "Ish"
- DOWN**
- 31 Opera star
 - 32 Person rating an app, probably
 - 34 "King of birds"
 - 35 12-year-old, e.g.
 - 37 "Sorry, my mistake!"
 - 38 Like water at most restaurants
 - 39 Concerning
 - 43 Aunt, in Spanish
 - 46 Anti-trafficking org.
 - 48 Feed the kitty
 - 52 Varieties
 - 54 Comedian Funches
 - 55 ___ mignon
 - 56 Fava or mung morsel
 - 57 Convention center event
 - 58 Aspiring D.A.'s exam
 - 59 Capital of Peru
 - 61 Villain's hideout
 - 62 Sit with the engine running
 - 63 Starter home?
 - 64 Clarinet necessity
 - 66 Make a choice
 - 67 Some hospital employees: Abbr.

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021 Venus Kisses Pluto



The cosmic kiss of Venus and Pluto asks, "What is love?" Out of the larger question comes a more personal one. "What makes *me* lovable?" If you dare ask people around you, they'll remind you. "Nature arms each man with some faculty which enables him to do easily some feat impossible to any other." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The machines don't seem to be on your side, though their failure to perform as expected will make your day even better. Your workarounds will be nothing short of brilliant.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're tempted to deliver something different from the order. What you have in mind is more generous and of a higher quality, but that won't necessarily make it well-received. People want what they want for a reason.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A good plan will prevent wasted resources. And a bad plan, oddly enough, will do the same if you approach it with an open and adaptive mind. Either way you're thinking ahead, which is what the day calls for.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Judging from your reaction to today's events, you still care what someone thinks of you. You might be surprised at how much! Regardless, base your next move solely on what's best for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'd love to know, once and for all, the perfect diet for you. Or maybe it's your ideal clothing style or other personal agenda for which you seek answers. Alas, even if there is a perfect prescription for now, it will change next season.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are those who work very hard to make it look easy, then there are those who make it look easy because for them it actually is. You'll learn more from people who fall into the first category.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The secret behind today's success is your open heart. You include people, consider their ideas and say yes even when you're not sure what you're getting into. Extending love and trust will pay off for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Being busy doesn't convey status and neither does having too much leisure. You give people higher ranking when they pace themselves well and do enjoyable work that matters to them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are even more curious than usual, especially on subjects you already know a little about. Your astute questions will flatter those who aren't used to attracting such focused attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Emotions are released in you for reasons. The triggers are real. Look at what excites you, what makes you laugh or cry. Investigate what makes you angry. Greater knowledge of your feelings will help you control them better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Everyone is quirky in some way. You like finding out exactly what that way is. It's even more delightful when you discover your own idiosyncrasies, which are made easier to see by an astute person getting to know you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are definite perks to remaining nonjudgmental. People feel comfortable around you. They learn that they can be honest versions of themselves and you get to know how things really are.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 11). You'll be granted a wish -- the one you are willing to give your best to and put dozens of attempts behind. The work is more than expected and the satisfaction and reward will be triple that expectation! You'll come into a new version of your power in 2022 and you'll like how you can help people with your position. Aquarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 10, 4, 44 and 16.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



SOLUTIONS

