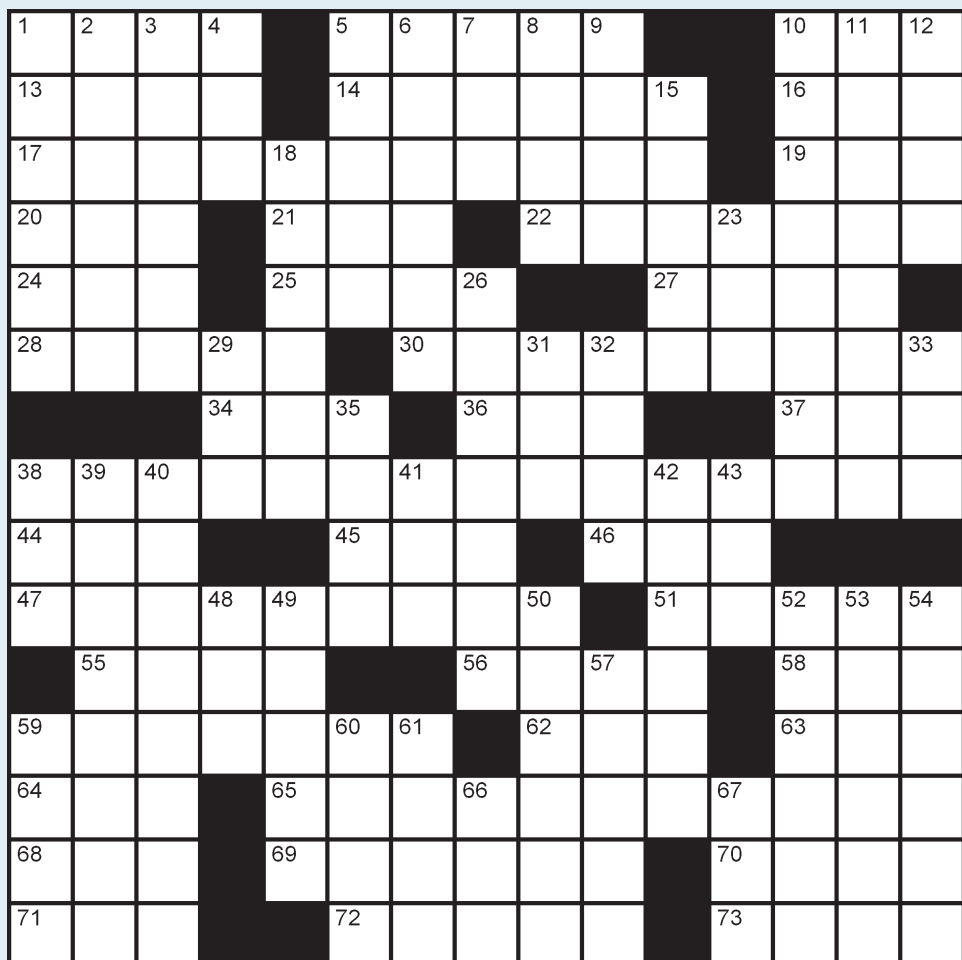


Lower Extremities by Emily Carroll

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Put up with
 - 5 Helps badly?
 - 10 Leave speechless
 - 13 Roughly
 - 14 Loosen, in tailoring
 - 16 Penguins' and Sharks' org.
 - 17 Missouri structure that is 630 feet tall
 - 19 Actor Robbins
 - 20 Light-colored wood
 - 21 Expressive music genre
 - 22 Queens team
 - 24 Rock band or sleep stage
 - 25 "___ story short ..."
 - 27 Inactive
 - 28 Follow behind
 - 30 Fish commonly served a la Meuniere
 - 34 Oslo's country: Abbr.
 - 36 Paycheck deduction
 - 37 Defeat in wrestling
 - 38 React under pressure, or a hint to the ends of 17-, 30-, 47- and 65-Across
 - 44 Cheerios grain
 - 45 Bit of advice
 - 46 ___ eye to eye
 - 47 Game called "noughts and crosses" in Britain
 - 51 Some essays or essays
 - 55 Glorify
 - 56 Dessert made by changing 8-Down's vowel
 - 58 Spare bed, perhaps
 - 59 Pitfalls
 - 62 Square dance partner
 - 63 Christ the Redeemer's Brazilian city, familiarly
 - 64 End up in a cast?
 - 65 '50s sitcom icon with two Hollywood stars
 - 68 Caps Lock neighbor
 - 69 Canine protector?
 - 70 Alternative to a foil or saber
 - 71 Prez on Mount Rushmore
 - 72 Vacant
 - 73 Attains
- DOWN**
- 1 Humphrey of "The Big Sleep"
 - 2 Pencil part that may be chewed
 - 3 Reason for wheezing, perhaps
 - 4 Tobiko, for example
 - 5 San Antonio tourist destination
 - 6 Farther than
 - 7 Waze calculation, briefly
 - 8 Civil wrong
 - 9 "Parting is ___ sweet sorrow" (Juliet)
 - 10 "Home on the Range" animal
 - 11 Delicate deception
 - 12 Trees lining the National Mall
 - 15 Gender-neutral possessive
 - 18 "Hmm ... I guess"
 - 23 OB-GYNs, e.g.
 - 26 Deteriorate
 - 29 Tired traveler's respite
 - 31 UPS vehicle
 - 32 Past partners
 - 33 Tolkien tree creature
 - 35 Campus recruitment grp.
 - 38 One may be potty-trained
 - 39 Shout "Taxi!"
 - 40 Incredulous expression
 - 41 Small complaint
 - 42 Agree out of court
 - 43 Tuition, for one
 - 48 Hard jerk
 - 49 "30" singer
 - 50 Baby bird in an aerie
 - 52 Sticky situation
 - 53 "Throne"
 - 54 Expensive wraps
 - 57 Come back from behind
 - 59 Cellphone plan component
 - 60 Mysterious marking
 - 61 Too-good-to-be-tre offer
 - 66 Little terror
 - 67 Say "Ple-e-ase," say

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021 Pride of the Lunar Lion



Leo moon glows over our gatherings of family and friends in these Capricorn-sun moments leading up to the Christmas holiday. It will be tempting to try to impress and compete with one another. While pride is attached to achievement and status, pride's egoless cousin dignity can live inside of us regardless of our successes or failures.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The problem needs a creative solution. Don't skip the brainstorm. Write down everything that comes to your mind on the subject: good, bad, realistic, fantastic... Workable ideas are oddly similar to ridiculous ones.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Getting yourself to do what you know you should can be tricky. When you resist your own self-discipline, assume you have your reasons. Maybe your approach is too harsh. Go easy. Try tenderness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're in the mood to get right to the point. It's a style that will be appreciated by efficient types who don't need a lot of fluff and extras. As for those with sweeter preferences, do it your way but add lots of sugar.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). All your relationships feed your soul. It's just that some serve cake and others serve vegetables. Today, your soul is most fortified by solid types serving sandwiches.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Today's success formula is very simple: Recognize where you made a bad choice, make a better one and enjoy the difference this creates in your world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What would your life look like if you didn't have a worry in the world? Get a vision of yourself as a completely carefree person, and then analyze the vision for hints about your best next move.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Watch your words, especially when you talk to yourself. Keep it sunny and warm. Fortune is truly smiling on you, and recognizing your good luck brings about even more of it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Look again at your finances. You are paying someone to do what you would have more satisfaction doing all by yourself. Can you cut expense and do more with less?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've been too hard on yourself in some regard. A gentle approach will reduce, if not erase, the hurt and tension. There's much to be gained by simply settling down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A paradox: Sometimes you have to stop "doing you" in order to become who you really are. You're daring today and will let go of a comfortable pattern for the sake of self-knowledge.

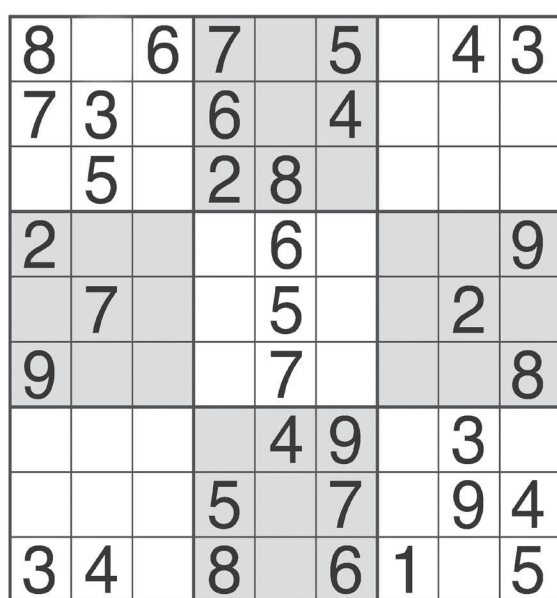
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Michel de Montaigne wondered if he was playing with his cat or if he was a toy to his cat. Such questions apply to your role in a nonfeline relationship. You'll be keenly aware inside the games people play.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Aesthetics matter to you more than usual, not just because you want to be surrounded by beauty but because a greater sense of order occurs around well-thought out environments.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 22). Appreciation is your general attitude, which tunes you into experiencing deeper levels of loveliness. Nuanced talents will send you in a fresh trajectory and at the end of the solar cycle, you'll feel like a new person. Family additions will turn up the energy levels; children and/or grandchildren will reflect brilliantly on you. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 25, 38, 11 and 4.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

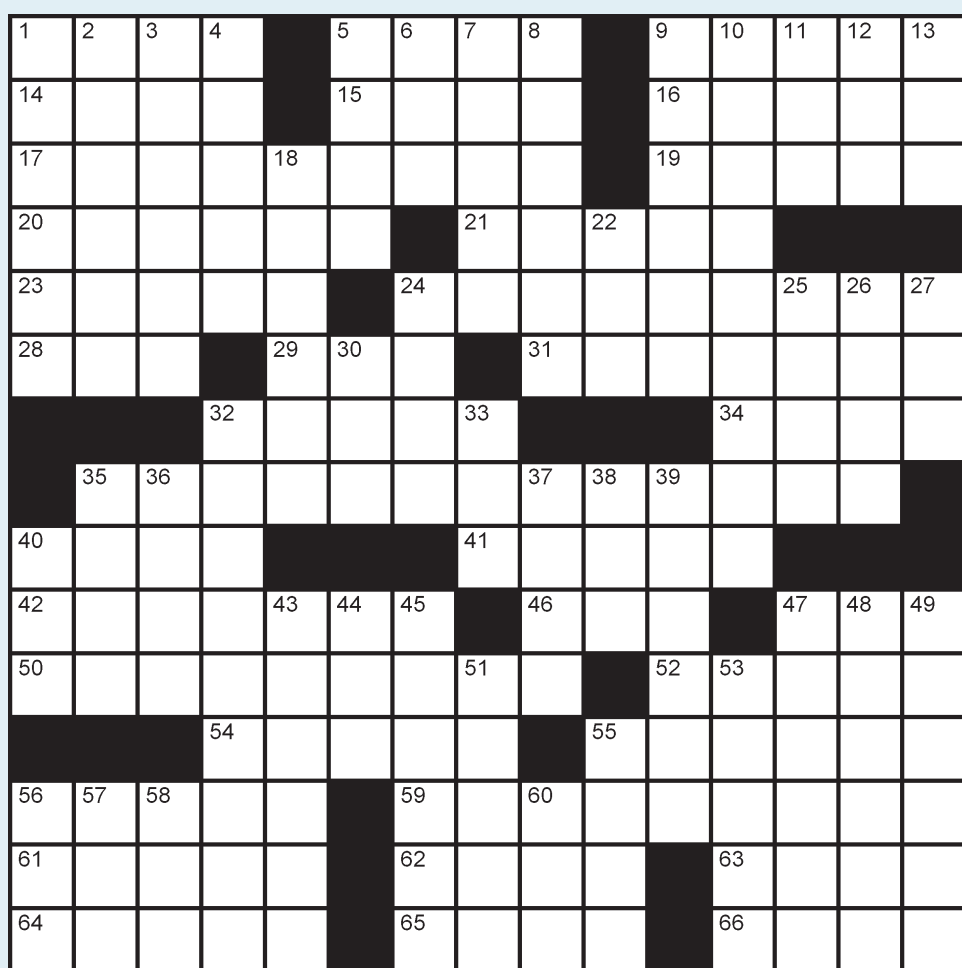


SOLUTIONS



Alchemy by Henry Lin-David

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS**
- 1 Achy
 - 5 Dot on a radar screen
 - 9 Asparagus unit
 - 14 "You said it!"
 - 15 Practice designed to center the mind
 - 16 ___ Kitty (toon with a hair bow)
 - 17 "Goodnight, Irene" singer (Note: The first words of the starred clues' answers form a sequence)
 - 19 Bothered
 - 20 Some supporters of the LGBTQ+ community
 - 21 Gross smells
 - 23 Fourth Greek letter
 - 24 "Websites' waiting periods
 - 28 Extremely dirty room
 - 29 ___ tai
 - 31 Polite affirmative
 - 32 Defective car
 - 34 Soft food
 - 35 "Dish featuring Yorkshire pudding and sausages
 - 40 Beer ingredient
 - 41 Skeletor's foe
 - 42 Skilled speakers
 - 46 Wheel groove
 - 47 Droop
 - 50 "Was I right or was I right?!"
 - 52 Escape the attention of
 - 54 MLB player whose mascot is an alien
 - 55 2004 Will Smith sci-fi flick
 - 56 Elbow or shoulder, e.g.
 - 59 "Kindergartners' rewards
 - 61 Two tablespoons
 - 62 Abbr. that shortens a list
 - 63 Word before "farm" or "house"
 - 64 One may pop a wheelie
 - 65 "Auld Lang ___"
 - 66 Forcibly remove room
- DOWN**
- 1 They get dressed in the kitchen
 - 2 Eggy breakfast
 - 3 "Are you serious?"
 - 4 Call off a relationship
 - 5 Tournament exemptions
 - 6 Texter's guffaw
 - 7 Frozen abode
 - 8 What an employee looks forward to
 - 9 Garments often required for service
 - 10 Fruit used as a Japanese New Year decoration
 - 11 Utah's state animal
 - 12 Drink in a pint glass
 - 13 Reel's partner
 - 18 Grinned widely
 - 22 Lyrical poem
 - 24 Mane attraction at the zoo?
 - 25 Injure using claws, perhaps
 - 26 Simplicity
 - 27 "Unbelievable," in a text
 - 30 French pal
 - 32 Inevitable conclusion to a wedding reception
 - 33 To the ___ degree
 - 35 Fatty sashimi option
 - 36 "Uncut Gems" gem
 - 37 Courageous type
 - 38 Bird on Australia's coat of arms
 - 39 Unpleasant critics
 - 40 Spicy
 - 43 Pearl producer
 - 44 Total nonsense
 - 45 Intensifies suddenly
 - 47 Forester automaker
 - 48 Loves a bunch
 - 49 "On your mark" follower
 - 51 Like unclean chimneys
 - 53 Numbers game
 - 55 Not doing anything
 - 56 Bank heist, say
 - 57 French homophone of "we"
 - 58 Squid's defense
 - 60 PC connection

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021 Cosmic Answer Key



Scientists concur that the brains of modern humans are biologically different from those of our predecessors. We've evolved to solve modern problems. Saturn and Uranus offer a conundrum we'll be tempted to crack with an intellectual approach our ancestors wouldn't have understood. Cosmic answer key: Don't overthink it. Just be loving.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You wouldn't mind things staying the way they are for a while. There's comfort in knowing what's likely to happen next. You'll pick the option that makes you feel relaxed and secure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's an important conversation on the horizon. Think of it as an interview, as it will dictate the future of a relationship. To prepare, consider the best way to talk about and highlight your strengths.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Being completely engaged in an endeavor produces a state of flow powerful enough to dissolve negative emotions, stave off hunger and delay the need for sleep. The longer you can stay in flow, the happier you'll be.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The one who helps you isn't waiting for acknowledgement, however if that help goes on for a while without recognition, it won't last. Your enthusiasm will be someone's sweet reward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll apply diligence to finish a job before the day is done. And if you also apply some laziness, you'll likely think of the smartest and most painless way to get it done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The way you view people will impact your experience. Lean into sunshine, trust and positivity. Because whatever you think of people, they will prove you right.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). What you now think of as a need will soon be reduced to a want or a mere preference. Realizing that you can happily get by with much less will liberate you and make room for interesting new developments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Simple measures like backing up your work will go a long way toward giving you a sense of security. It's not because you think things will go wrong, it's because you're more confident when you know your bases are covered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your sharp wit delights people and makes them feel safe. You'll notice what's going on and your comments are on-point. Among your many attractive qualities is your ability to live in the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Things seem out of order. There will be advance praise and more oddly, hope for the past. Expectations sent backward won't change what happened, but it can change how the story is told.

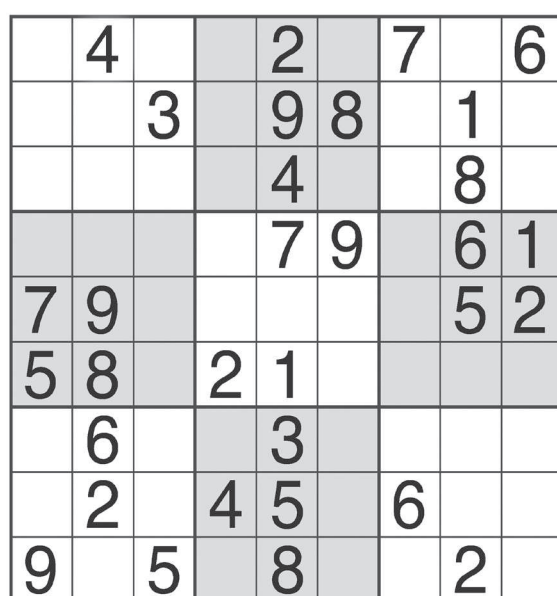
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have a talent for seeing past your own anxieties and into a deeper empathy with others in the world, an exercise in perspective that brings ease in when you need it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your heart is not an uncharted sea -- it's been charted. The map is tested and it's sound. You know where you are and where you're going. Still, the experience of it can be disorienting. Keep an eye trained to your lodestar.

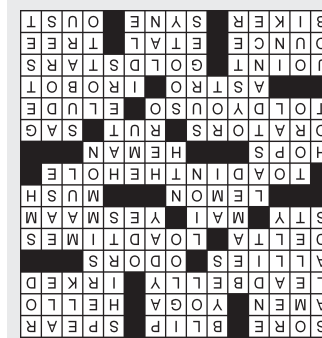
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 23). You'll wield well the powerful magnetic force called expectation. Anticipate felicity in a wide range of forms. You'll know it when you feel it. You will be the recipient of much amorous attention. You'll have something to teach in a methodical, organized way. Loved ones will blossom under your tutelage. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 10, 22, 24 and 28.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

