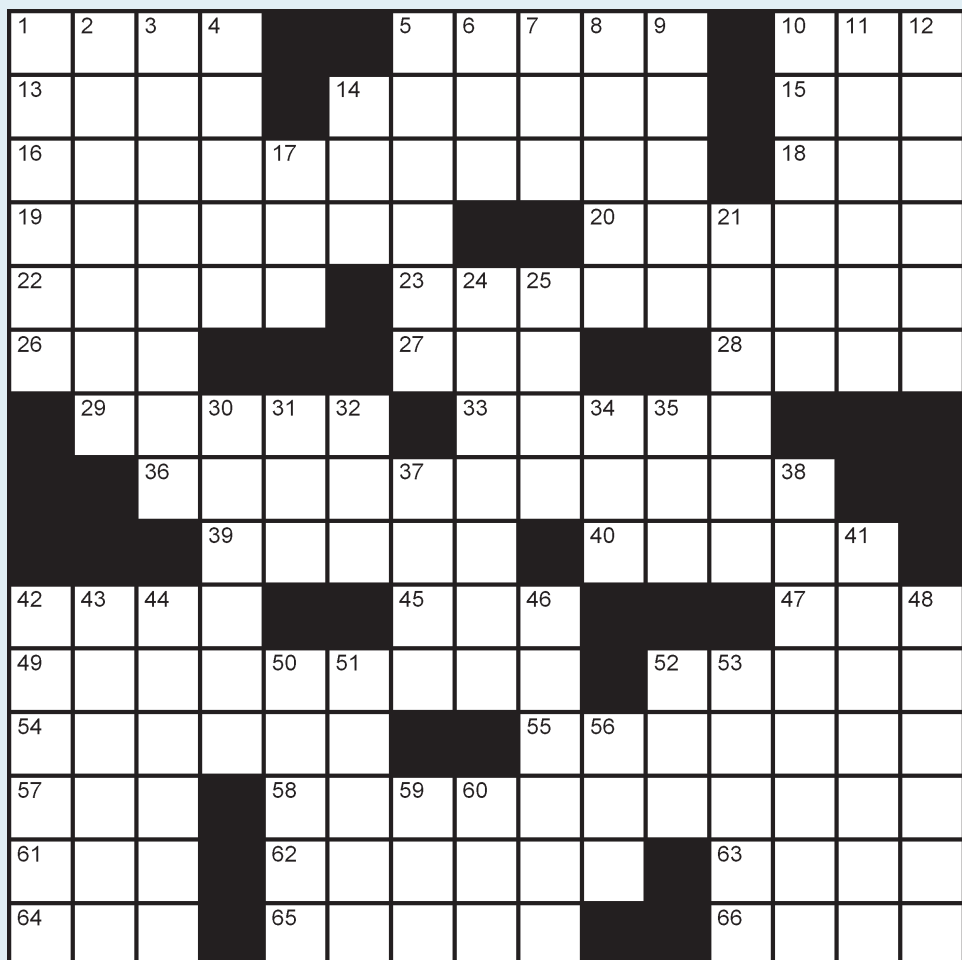


Cuckoo Clark by Katherine Baicker

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Rafkin



- ACROSS: 1 Elizabethan and Victorian, e.g. 5 Physical therapy, for short 10 Golf course standard 13 Title for Helen Mirren 14 ___ pancakes (latkes) 15 Dolly the sheep, e.g. 16 *Recap from Kevin McCallister after being home alone 18 Links org. 19 Deep-fried tortilla dish 20 Tearful Patti Page hit 22 Food that makes people tear up 23 *Soup or sandwich, sometimes 26 Speed Wagon maker, once 27 Origin of species? 28 Foggy stupor 29 Holy cheese 33 Tantalus' weeping daughter 36 *'Didn't we get rid of all of these little bugs?' 39 More wily 40 Mob film extras 42 Add to the payroll 45 Award won by Patrick Mahomes in 2018 47 Small glob 49 *What a confused carnivorous plant might do 52 ___ by the rules 54 Biblical parting place? 55 Gospel singer Adams 57 The Wizard of Oz, to Elphaba 58 "Spring forward" and "fall back" events, and a hint to the starred clues' answers 61 Course for some new U.S. residents 62 Dusting items 63 "___ as I Am" (Cicely Tyson memoir) 64 Change, like locks? 65 Mythical underworld 66 Decides 30 Maps within maps 31 Note after fa 32 Messy house 34 "No way, really?!" 35 Life story, briefly 37 Prefix meaning "half" 38 Eventually becoming 41 Most forlorn 42 Gathered together, like sheep 43 "Whatever you want is cool with me" 44 Mind teaser from the Sphinx 46 ___ out (intimidates) 48 Wild animals 50 Retrieve, like a ball 51 Novelist Lalami 52 In the style of 53 Folk music instrument 56 "Ex's & ___" (Elle King song) 59 Internet forum admin 60 Summer, in Paris

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022 Mercury Gets Working



There are certain essential qualities necessary to amass any kind of good result. Work ethic is a big one. Self-control is another heavy hitter. In the end, the qualities are the true treasures, worth more than any result, because building these muscles gives you the world. This message was brought to you by the early days of Mercury in Capricorn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though you understand intellectually that it's wrong to base your self-worth on someone else's opinion, you'll still find yourself working for a certain person's approval and being elated when you get it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). While it may be impossible to will yourself to take pleasure in an experience, it is very possible to direct your thought process toward being open to any pleasure that is there for you to experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Is it really better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all? Time is a most precious resource not to be wasted in ill-matched scenarios. You'll move cautiously in relationship matters.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You feel animated, vibrant, ready to take up space and share all the friendly energy bottled up inside you. Interesting developments are in store for your social life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Enjoy the haze of fuzzy knowledge while it lasts because you're about to know a lot more. New information will either inspire you to like a thing a lot more or not at all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Perfection doesn't need perfecting, mostly because it doesn't exist. Things that are pretty darned good don't need perfecting either, as you're better off taking the win and moving forward to the next thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Does someone think about you as often and with as much affection as you think about them? The balance of even the most reciprocal love is always changing as the pendulum of attention swings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Successful conversations will be the start of your good luck. The right subject is key. Focus on topics people like to talk about and can relate to for all the good feelings they kindle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Love isn't in some distant galaxy; it's right in your own swirl, waiting to be embraced. You have everything you need to unlock the next level of a relationship if it's what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The routine gets old. Common things become so familiar they blend into the fabric of the day, losing their power to ignite the senses. A change-up is in order. Don't wait for it to happen; make it happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You handle things. If it needs doing, you do it. But if you do too much for others, you could accidentally reward laziness and promote further inaction. Whatever you take on now, you'll have to keep taking on.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you finish early, keep working. Later, when the unexpected happens, instead of being stressed you'll feel you have options and opportunities. You'll be glad you got ahead of things when you had the chance.

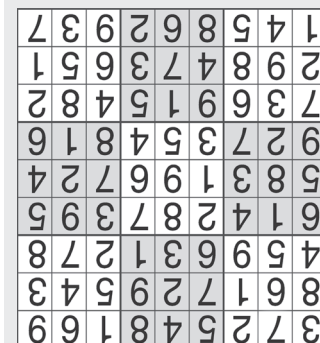
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 26). You are fiercely competitive at key moments. Your success will be a direct result of three challenges you faced with grit. These instances will be tempered by the gentle, cozy vibe that prevails over your personal and domestic life. Pisces and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 22, 27 and 17.

Universal SUDOKU

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

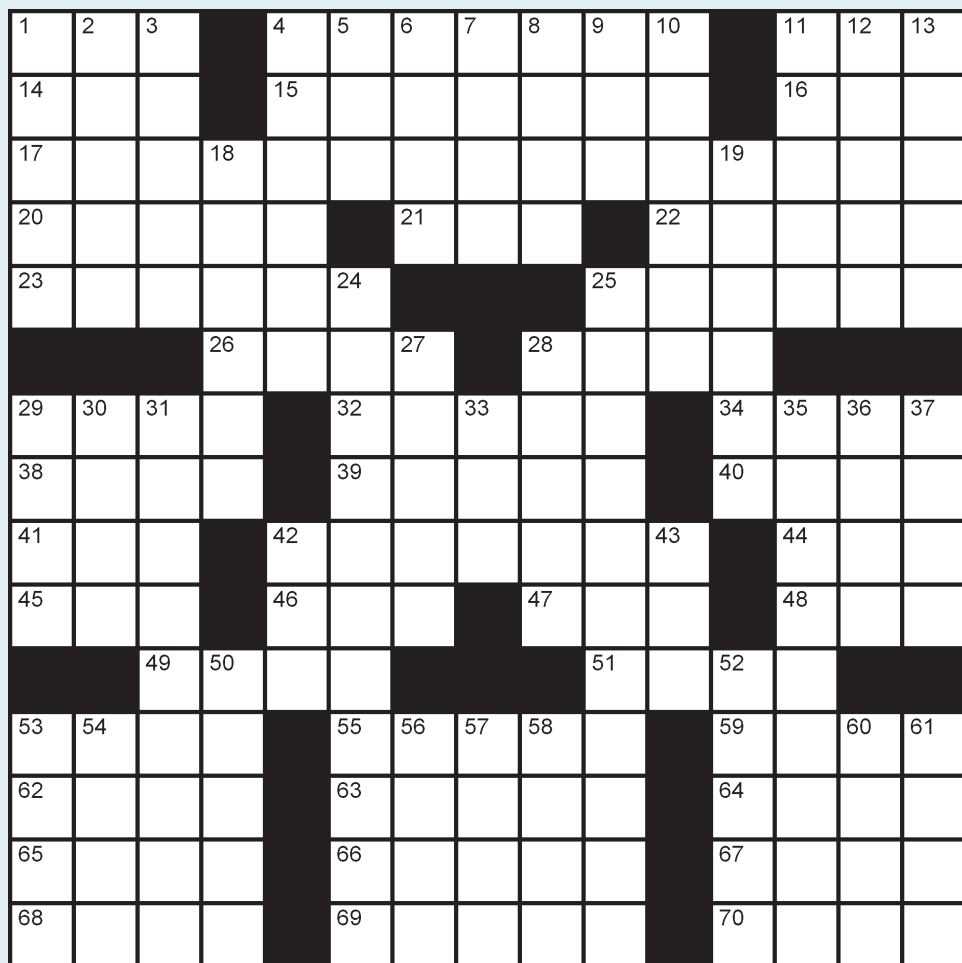


SOLUTIONS



Back and Forth by Karen Stock and Matthew Stock

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 ___-fi 4 Beats by a long shot, say 11 TV show with a cold open 14 Sheet-___ dinner 15 "Gotta have that!" 16 Seydoux of "No Time to Die" 17 *Campaign strategist's targets 20 Wilson of "The Office" 21 Where clouds "hang out" 22 Annoy 23 Language family including Ukrainian 25 Season for sledding 26 Cuatro + cuatro 28 Religious act 29 Appealing to hipsters, perhaps 32 High-five invitation 34 Baker's measurements: Abbr. 38 Apt anagram of a flower symbolizing love 39 Benefit of a promotion, often 40 Exchange 41 "ur hilarious" 42 Cream-filled pastries 44 "Rocks" at a bar 45 Letters before 15 or 30, on some tubes 46 DVD predecessor 47 Luka Doncic's league 48 In mint condition 49 Sea creature such as Sebastian in "The Little Mermaid" 51 Not short 53 Coca-___ chicken 55 Kagan who was Harvard Law's first female dean 59 Opposite of 48-Across 62 Border on 63 Adored 64 Ctrl+Y, on a PC 65 Ear projection 66 Baggy 67 Mix 68 Result of a spill 69 Leopard's markings 70 "Como ___ usted?" 28 Violinist's block 29 Fish that can swim backward 30 Let fall 31 *Caddie's bagful 33 Spanish for "aunt" 35 Common playground fixtures ... or the starred clues' answers? 36 Salsa brand 37 Erupt 42 "Casino Royale" actress Green 43 ___ Paulo 50 Prices that are set 52 Frontline health professional 53 Relaxed 54 Double-reed instrument 56 Play on repeat 57 Salad dressing staple: Abbr. 58 Warbler's digs 60 Proofreader's change 61 Explorer with a talking map

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 Final Days of a Venus Retrograde



Comedian Jimmy Durante joked, "I hate music, especially when it's played." While his opinion was certainly in the minority, this Venus retrograde has shown us how overexposure can contribute to burnout with even the very best things in life. To avoid becoming jaded in these final days before the Venus turn, practice moderation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't have to try to be different; your uniqueness is innate. You don't have to try to be the same either; you have all the commonalities necessary to belong.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be a gamemaster of sorts. You have a knack for dreaming up creative challenges. If there's a simple setup and a clear goal, people will compete for the prize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your internal clock goes elastic, causing you to be in your own time zone. Some things are sped up, some take forever -- and because of this, being punctual takes real effort but is so worth it!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've seen people do unpredictable things out of fear, so you go out of your way to make others comfortable, allay doubts and assuage worries. As a result, you'll project the future of the relationship with greater accuracy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're working on a co-creation. How people treat each other affects the progress and development of the project. A successful outcome will be the ultimate sign of group health.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your interpretation of a subject is also a subject. How you see things is how you see you. And there's no action you can take now that won't point to what's on your heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're preoccupied with playing out hypothetical conversations in your head. These mental negotiations, arguments and investigations will help you gear up for real-life scenarios of the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some of your experiences are like a concentrated spice: essential to the dish, but a dash goes a long way. These more intense flavors of life are best mixed into the fullness of many mundane activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Four excruciating words will be uttered: "Not yet, but soon." Since the waiting is indeed the hardest part, don't wait. Make sure your spot is being held and go do something else.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The challenge is to focus on how things are, not how they were. As you interact with things in real time, you find certain regrets breaking off and drifting ever further away.

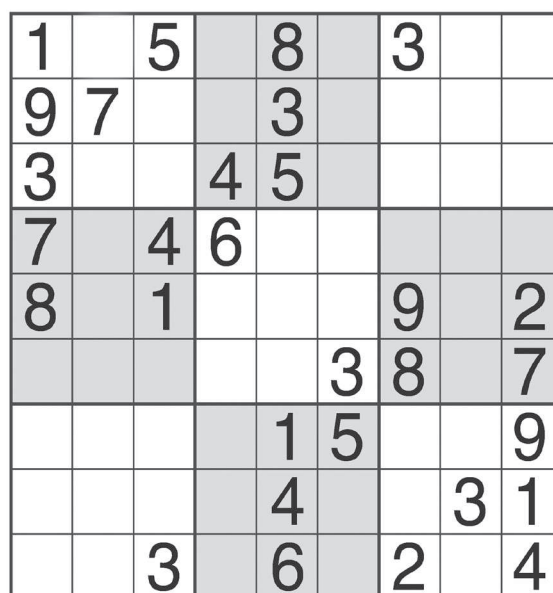
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The snack between meals can contain more calories than the meal. The parking can cost more than the event. The casual mention in party conversation can impact more than the entire celebration.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll learn what you need to know with casual observation and indirect questioning. Tip: The question that causes people to hesitate, fidget or laugh is too direct and will also cause them to hide the truth.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 27). You'll thrive on a balance of structure and spontaneity, which comes effortlessly. The loads of love heaped on you are well-deserved, not because you racked up the good karma in the past (you did, but that's beside the point ...) You were always worthy of the sweetest the world has to offer. Let yourself have more of it. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 44, 43, 27 and 17.

Universal SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

