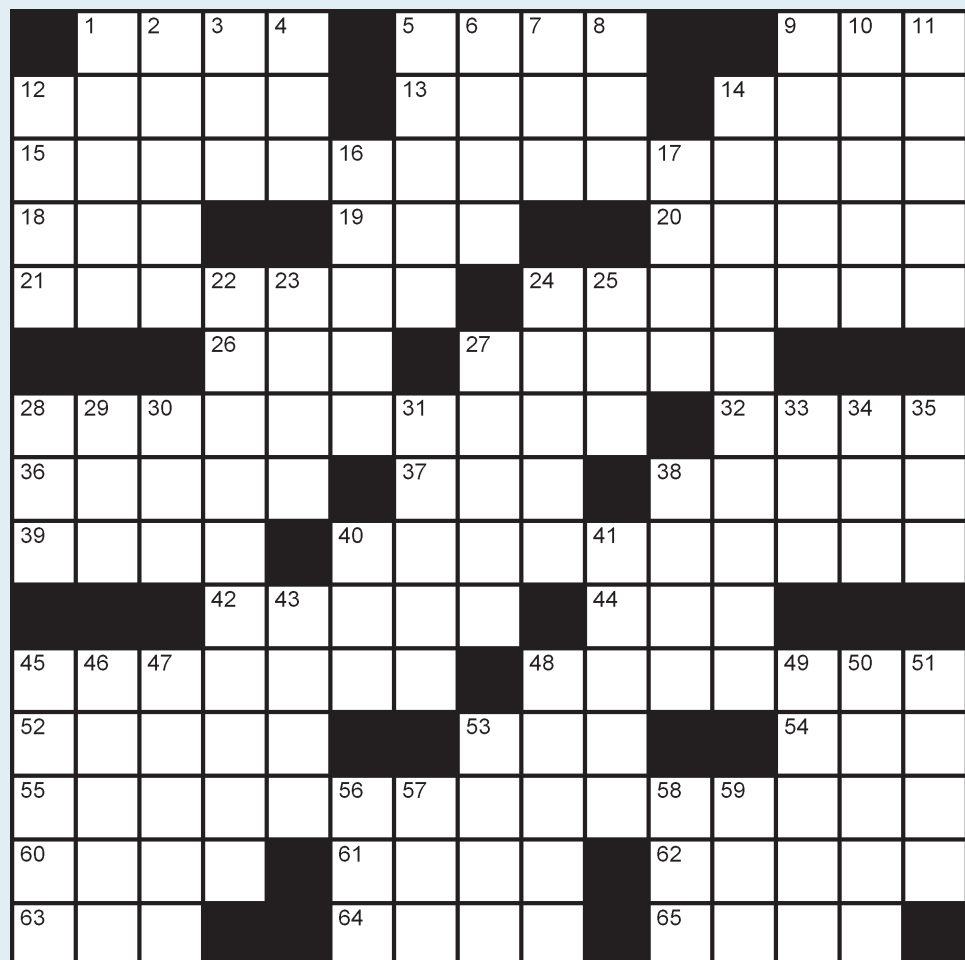


From Start to Finish by Christina Iverson

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Beginning, in an idiom ... or a hint to the starred clues' answers, pre-transformation; 5 Milo's pug pal; 9 Energize, with "up"; 12 Mattress brand that anagrams to "a rest"; 13 Trumpet, e.g.; 14 One may start with "What if we ..."; 15 "Package arriving for a Catholic celebration?"; 18 ___ carte; 19 Eco-friendly bulb variety; 20 "Seriously!"; 21 Gifts used for writing; 24 Give off, as hormones; 26 Tilling tool; 27 Skewered Thai dish; 28 "Wedding bands?"; 32 "Toodles!"; 36 Anxious and Boscs; 37 "Narcos" org.; 38 Combo meal drinks; 39 Mailed; 40 *Airport security channel?; 42 Texas Roadhouse specialty; 44 Billiards need; 45 Apt name for a psychic?; 48 Rodents in experiments; 52 Empathetic words; 53 Michael Caine's title; 54 Lav, in Liverpool; 55 "Sun mission?"; 60 ___ crane (toy-grabbing machine); 61 Kristen of "Welcome to Me"; 62 Unkind adjective that some feminists have reclaimed; 63 "Toy Story" antagonist; 64 Pinot grigio, e.g.; 65 End, in an idiom ... or a hint to the starred clues' answers; DOWN: 1 Black Panther Bobby; 2 Financial expert; 3 Beehive State native; 4 GladRags or Always product; 5 Enthusiastic approval; 6 Mary ___ Lincoln; 7 Anger; 8 Show Ariana DeBose hosted in '22; 9 "Hello" singer; 10 Worthiness; 11 Check recipient; 12 Fingers' rhythmic sound; 14 Academic's happy place; 16 ___ ego; 17 People whose soldiers had alpaca capes; 22 Undesirable thing to draw; 23 Billions of years; 24 Carl who influenced "2001: A Space Odyssey"; 25 Sci-fi beings; 27 Dishonest person; 28 Co. with brown trucks; 29 Formerly named; 30 Author McEwan; 31 "In my opinion ..."; 33 Big bother; 34 Sticky black stuff; 35 "___ This Old House" (PBS show); 38 Bump, as a toe; 40 Top rating, often; 41 Phhhaperless greeting; 43 Layer; 45 Record player inserts; 46 Food concern; 47 Course with dressing; 48 Loyal subject; 49 Elite guests; 50 Train whistle sounds; 51 Samsung competitor; 53 Twirl; 56 "Yech!"; 57 12 letters?; 58 Red Roof ___ (hotel chain); 59 Sigma follower

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022 Snow Moon Alternatives



Traditionally, the full moon in February has been called the Snow Moon, the Hunger Moon and the Storm Moon. Yet in this world of grocery stores and indoor living, this full Leo moon stirs a different kind of hunger, one that evokes an appetite for theatrics and glamour. The storm watch is emotional and satisfied by passionate drama.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The ambitious will need to hold on tight through twists and turns. As for the striving-averse, don't worry. Life gives the best fun to those who were simply trying to solve the problem of the day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Like most growing things, it feels right to you to follow the sun. Being highly mobile, you've also learned to seek shelter to avoid overexposure. You'll shine when it feels healthy and duck out before things get too intense.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've a sensor for what's good for you. You know what you want before other people even know it's an option. Acting on this will take a mix of boldness and charm.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are roads going where you need to go. You don't have to pave your own; you just have to get on track. Look around for people who've been here longer and can teach you this terrain.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Laughter and applause are the soundtrack of your life. Your natural inclinations will make internal editing and self-control fundamental to appropriate socializing. But you'll love most those who can handle your rawness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A creative vibe takes hold, and it's impressive what your imagination can come up with. In fact, these fantasies aren't that far from reality when the right effort is made.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Although you may feel neglected, this isn't necessarily a bad thing. In fact, it may relieve a lot of pressure. Recent demands on your attention might make solitude seem like a luxury.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Something will make you feel like dressing up before you go out. This is intuition nudging you into your future. The greeting of an attractive stranger is the first step to something wonderful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being told what to do doesn't sit well with you. Even so, as soon as you remove your resistance, you'll realize the instructions are a gift. Following them simplifies your life significantly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It may be embarrassing, but team-building games and icebreakers build bonds. Playing for an hour can reveal more about a person than a hundred meetings.

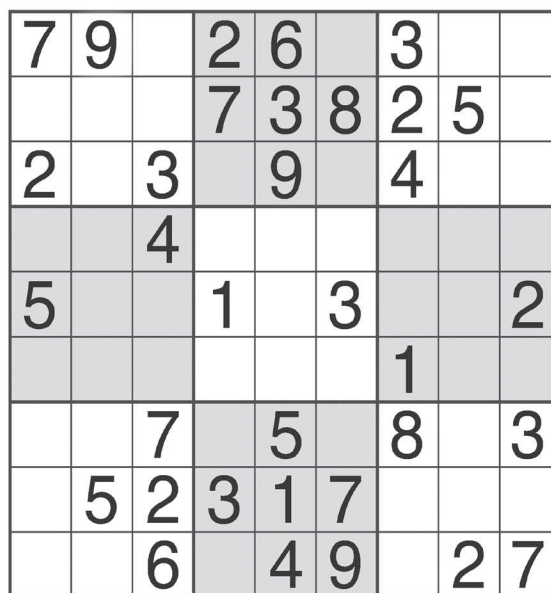
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Either a game will be won or a joint effort will be successful. In the end, it will not be about the prize but about the relationships that grow from the experience.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Don't be afraid to share your expectations and your wishes with others. You can do that with charm and without seeming demanding. It's a skill you're constantly developing.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 16). Your experiences will be shaped by integrity, boldness and vitality as you sing life's song out loud. People will remember how you made them feel. You'll hone relevant professional skills, discover a niche and assemble a team to get the goal. Love blossoms in the spring then floats and flies through summer. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 2, 22, 19 and 36.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

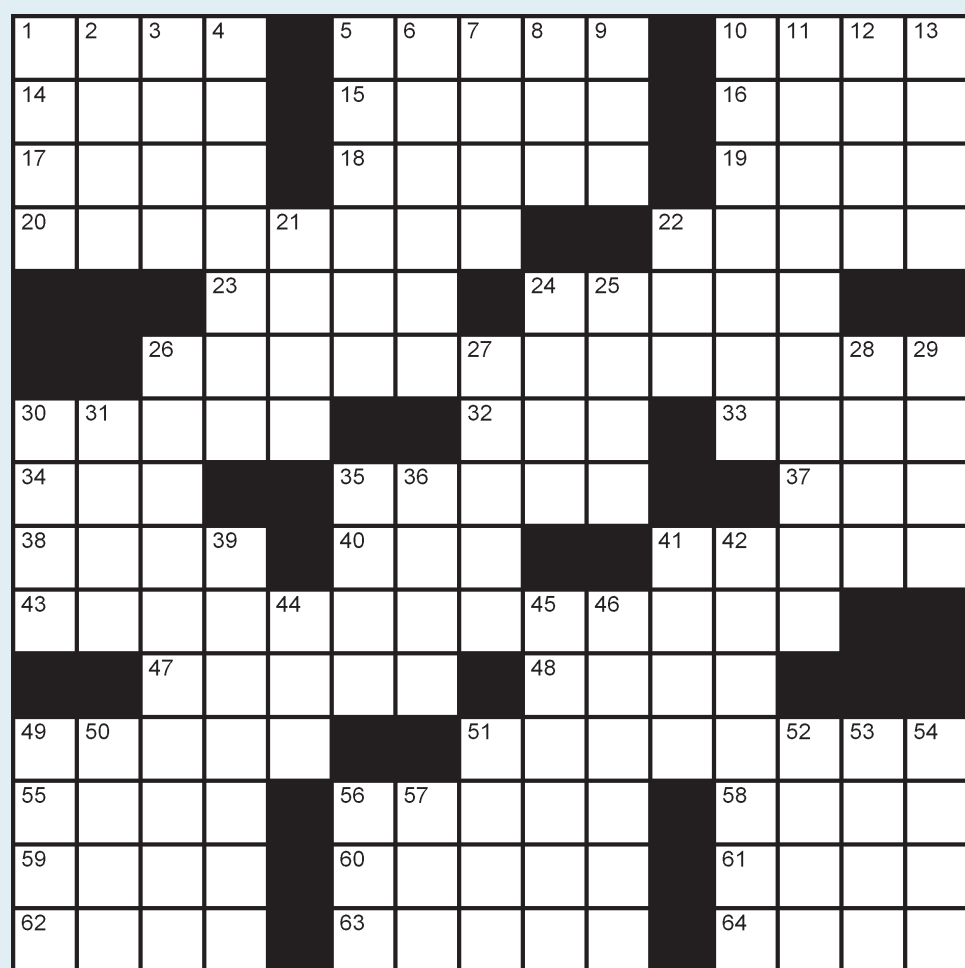


SOLUTIONS



Sounds About Right by Jon Pennington

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Passed with flying colors; 5 "Otherwise ..."; 10 Rock outcropping; 14 Sake ingredient; 15 Ensnarers; 16 Flow like molasses in January; 17 Salsa singer Anthony; 18 Sealy competitor; 19 Prune, before drying; 20 Address for an ambassador, very briefly?; 22 Items in a case labeled SMTWTFS; 23 Bana of "Troy"; 24 Scoop for soup; 26 Indie band led by Ben Gibbard, very briefly?; 30 Game show host Wayne; 32 Bird symbolizing Athena; 33 "That's accurate"; 34 Word after "tin" or "inner"; 35 Ocean predator named for a flower, very briefly?; 37 "Society's Child" singer Janis; 38 Matures; 40 Tell a whopper; 41 Ranch laborers; 43 Process that may create alpha particles, very briefly?; 47 Escape from; 48 Women at a square dance; 49 Levi's jeans feature; 51 English composition assignment, very briefly?; 55 Thor's dad; 56 Western part of Hispaniola; 58 Pointy-eared wildcat; 59 Hives mark; 60 Doo-wop song, e.g.; 61 Canal opened in 1825; 62 Cheeky talk; 63 Schemes; DOWN: 1 Navy's football rival; 2 Italian for "Bye!" or "Hi!"; 3 Relative of beige; 4 Ordered by law; 5 "This party's awesome!"; 6 Official language of Senegal; 7 DEA agent; 8 Select, with "for"; 9 PreCheck provider: Abbr.; 10 Cockpit partner; 11 Setting of the film "Skatetown U.S.A."; 12 Blue, in Spanish; 13 Precious stones; 21 Dentist's picture; 22 Alternative to a doc?; 24 Croquet area; 25 Competent; 26 Bungee jumpers and high-wire walkers, e.g.; 27 Space object with a tail; 28 Squarish college; 29 Column next to the ones; 30 Baloo or Pooh; 31 Sitar melody; 35 Dressed; 36 Pleasant; 39 Old movies before "talking pictures"; 41 Position of leadership; 42 Newspaper revenue stream that Craigslist disrupted; 44 Not closeted; 45 "Dibs on this fly ball!"; 46 Differs; 49 Competes on the crew team; 50 Lightbulb, in cartoons; 51 Stereotypical dog name; 52 Ancient U-shaped harp; 53 Irritated mood; 54 Lines of rotation; 56 Move like a bunny; 57 Tide competitor

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022 Last Days of the Pisces Sun



On the last day of Pisces season, a strong lunar agenda begs input from planetary mentors along its course. Saturn's advice stands out. The lesson planet strongly suggests we grade everyone on a curve, including and especially ourselves. We are all doing our best with what we have.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Despite your feeling of shyness, you are still expected to make a presentation, introduction or sales pitch. You will need to do this work more than once, so get started right away. The sooner you begin, the sooner you will succeed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A partner or colleague is going through changes that make you wonder about your future together. It's like you're moving forward and they're in the rear-view. Don't jump to conclusions just yet. There is a temporary dynamic at play.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will question an idea or attitude you've accepted for years. While you may wonder "why did it take me so long?" you can be sure that this would have caused you pain if you had asked the question in another era.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll feel moved to help out someone close to you, but there's only so much you can do. Offer assistance until the other person can handle it on their own, then back off to show you trust them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The clarity of your mind will amaze you. Your untrue beliefs will be exposed. You will build new logical pathways that support your pursuit of a fantastic goal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The project has become convoluted with so many cooks. This calls for a return to basics. It will take a few days for you to sort out issues, then you will create a new plan that honors your original intent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Because others' wants seem more urgent than your own, you are tempted to give in to them. But that may set the stage for subtle manipulation. Take a stand to prevent future conflict.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're dealing with a tricky personal issue. Information is lacking. There is no way you can know the whole story now or ever. In this situation, all you can do is go with the feeling and respond with as much love as you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're doing a good deed for someone but consider why you are doing it. Eliminate ego-driven motives. When you carry this out for the right reasons, you'll be rewarded with great joy and luck.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Following the schedule feels repetitive. Everything is so familiar. An element of intrigue would shake things up, or it may be enough just to include someone new.

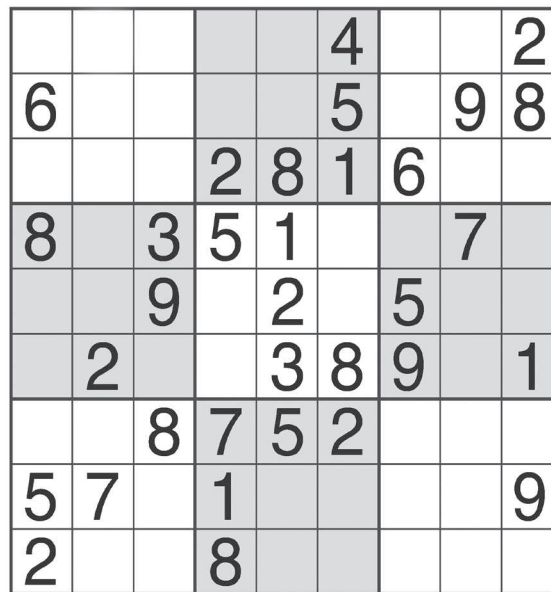
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You consider work essential to your well-being. You believe you are here to serve and contribute. It's hard for you to imagine how anyone could feel otherwise, but they do, and you'll be challenged to accept it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may think the drama is unnecessary, but frequently a dramatic person is satisfying a need in the best way they know how. If you can remain detached, there is entertainment value in this. Otherwise, try walking.

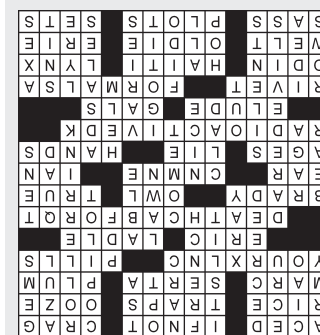
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 17). This solar return finds you ever on the search for new sensations. Discovery is a pleasure; pleasure leads to gratitude; gratitude makes your life prayer in motion. Your range of perspective widens with an excursion to the top. You'll work at having more to offer because giving is among your greatest joys. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 40, 7, 20 and 38.

Universal SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



SOLUTIONS

