

Funny Ending by Carly Schuna

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Type of package sent by an empty nester, maybe
 - 5 Crimson and others
 - 9 Role that might involve flipping burgers
 - 14 Blown away
 - 15 "___ stage left"
 - 16 Venue for a huge concert
 - 17 Bear with cold porridge
 - 18 City northwest of Rome
 - 19 Constant critic
 - 20 Sound made when you CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE
 - 23 So far
 - 24 Capable
 - 25 Llama's cousin
 - 29 Biological pouch
 - 30 This answer and others
 - 32 Heater fuel option
 - 36 "Waterfalls" band
 - 37 Drink akin to a Slurpee
 - 38 Tree that a 33-Down grows into
 - 39 Singer Guthrie
 - 40 Janitorial tool
 - 41 Cares
 - 44 Queensland's capital
 - 47 Time of importance
 - 48 Totally committed
 - 49 Cause of a princess's insomnia
 - 50 Part of a min.
 - 53 Ultimate victory, or a hint to the ends of 20-, 32- and 41-Across
 - 57 Saguaro and peyote
 - 60 Only U.S. state with a three-word capital
 - 61 ___ Millions
 - 62 Extraterrestrial
 - 63 Africa's longest river
 - 64 Word following "teen" or "American"
 - 65 Goatee, for one
 - 66 \$\$\$ sources
 - 67 Work place
- DOWN**
- 1 Like an exaggerated movie
 - 2 In the know
 - 3 Send payment
 - 4 Dutch cheese
 - 5 Precise copy
 - 6 Be
 - 7 Part of CD
 - 8 Headliner
 - 9 Thanks, in Hawaii
 - 10 Menstrual pains
 - 11 Speedy plane
 - 12 Number of horns for the Indian rhinoceros
 - 13 Snack ___ (concession stand)
 - 21 In the distance
 - 22 Fennec fox's famous features
 - 26 Classic cartoon dog dog with a space-related name
 - 27 Instrument played sitting down
 - 28 Garment that anagrams to "coats"
 - 29 Certain boy's name?
 - 30 Tequila source
 - 31 Dessert that may have layers
 - 32 Rain clouds
 - 33 See 38-Across
 - 34 Neither hot nor cold
 - 35 Tender cut of meat
 - 39 "That's it!"
 - 41 Stare with an open mouth
 - 42 Boils with anger
 - 43 Asian sea that's actually a lake
 - 45 Hunting dog
 - 46 To the rear of
 - 49 Song with a silent start?
 - 50 Soft leather
 - 51 Certain waffles
 - 52 Grip enhancer at the gym
 - 54 Popular dog name that's Latin for "moon"
 - 55 Working hard
 - 56 In a group of
 - 57 Vehicle with a meter
 - 58 Brewery choice
 - 59 Secretive org.

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 Mars and Neptune Suggest...



How would we fare if we reached the pearly gates and were graded by our leisure-time activities? Now is a great time to delve deeper into our most frivolous interests. In fact, it's more important than it seems. The seemingly fanciful endeavors reconcile our existence in the workaday world and are necessary to our mental health.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A desire for improvement may seem like a rejection of the status quo. With an accepting heart, you will somehow be able to simultaneously love the way things are while also rooting for the change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Unfinished business has its own beauty. It's still ripe with potential. Don't be too quick to finish things. Let yourself linger in the lively land of limbo.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It is possible that you lack the technical expertise to complete a task. Do not let that stop you. Let your enthusiasm and excitement shine through. There will be somebody to assist you with the logistics.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The saying goes, "It takes money to make money." The money in question doesn't always have to be your own, though. Although you can mitigate the risk, remember that those who pay the most will also gain the most.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're skeptical of what's happening in elite circles. Though you may be invited to join, you'll resist. The outsiders are more attractive to you. Somehow, it's safer outside.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Although you work well with strong-willed individuals, sometimes you need a break from the intensity. Today you'll thrive in easygoing company, or the serenity of solitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know your limits and you also know that certain people will push you past them. It is best to avoid these types today. You're the boss of you. Don't give up the position.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're patient and will wait for your loved ones who move at a different pace. When you're on your own, you can have as much speed and freedom as you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The deal goes down; the exchange favors you. You won't immediately feel the force of your good fortune. But the future will reveal the many advantages to your position.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's one puzzle after another today. Whether you're learning new software or locating a left shoe, trial and error will eventually get you to the win.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What would it take to let go of winning, of being right, of proving a point, and instead focus on understanding and listening? For many it would be too heroic a task. But you're angelic, gracious and egoless, so it's easy, right?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being available to the world today will benefit you. Don't let your calls go to voicemail. Personalization will make a difference. Your human touch is appreciated.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 23). The various roles of your life get a brilliant shake-up. A sibling acts as a good friend; children transform into teachers; and your inner critic becomes an insightful coach. You will gain a greater sense of control over your physical energy and achieve a health-related goal. Love will help you discover your potential. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 44, 10, 27 and 16.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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SOLUTIONS

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High Cs by Paul Coulter

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Rafkin

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Kid's motorized wheels, informally
 - 6 Design deet
 - 10 They're often found in jewel cases
 - 13 Hertz alternative
 - 14 "Hello," in Spanish
 - 15 Pate de ___ gras
 - 16 Meetups from Bumble
 - 17 Streaming service with the show "Love, Victor"
 - 18 "I'll pay for this one"
 - 19 Like a pilot with a fear of heights
 - 21 People who are always off?
 - 23 Klutzy person
 - 24 Dumps pet food into the water bowl, say
 - 26 Color, like a cartoon
 - 27 Blender setting
 - 29 Sweetie
 - 30 "Psych!"
 - 32 Hoax
 - 34 Brown with a skillet?
 - 36 Molten rock
 - 37 Water-resistant cover
 - 38 Calves' milk sources
 - 39 "Yeah, right!"
 - 40 Doesn't feel too hot
 - 41 "The gram"
 - 42 "Dream a Little Dream of Me" singer Fitzgerald
 - 43 Angular head?
 - 44 Parking area
 - 45 Words on a candy heart
 - 47 Dwelling in the woods
 - 49 Gorillas, e.g.
 - 50 "When are you getting here?": Abbr.
 - 53 "Never mind!"
 - 55 Send for
 - 57 Tavern brews
 - 58 Think tank result
 - 60 Corp. shake-up
 - 61 "When all is said and ___ .."
 - 62 Ferret relative
- DOWN**
- 1 AM/FM device
 - 2 "The Nutcracker" girl
 - 3 Cool dude in the House of Commons?
 - 4 "You got that right!"
 - 5 More optimistic
 - 6 "Be quiet!"
 - 7 Fills a cup
 - 8 Hearn's who founded the Marsha P. Johnson Institute
 - 9 Warn a corporate department that works with Marketing?
 - 10 Pine part flavoring a certain wheat ale?
 - 11 Piece of pulp fiction
 - 12 Goes out with
 - 15 Censored version of a certain curse word in "The Good Place"
 - 20 Genesis, in the Old Testament?
 - 22 Traveler's lodging
 - 25 Yield
 - 28 Diamond experts?
 - 29 Bit of inside info
 - 31 "Ciao!"
 - 32 "Now!"
 - 33 Blond or black, e.g.
 - 35 Aides for profs
 - 36 "Ray Donovan" star Schreiber
 - 44 Extremely fun
 - 46 Takes by force
 - 48 Safe place?
 - 49 "All Boys ___ Blue" (George M. Johnson memoir)
 - 51 Midsection
 - 52 Boiling emotion
 - 53 Zilch
 - 54 Polish, like writing
 - 56 ___ mortal
 - 59 Alias letters

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 Mercury's Unique Call



Mercury and Uranus call on our stores of compassion. Unlike good eyesight or plenty of hair, compassion isn't usually the sort of gift a person is born with. More often it is earned through suffering, enduring injustice or crushing disappointment. These are the experiences that equip hearts to see one another through the dark tunnels of hardship.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Understanding the experience of others is more important than who is right or wrong. If you want to lower the levels of confrontation, use "I" statements instead of "you."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When the lightbulb goes out, you change the lightbulb; you don't get a new house. Narrow your focus to the problem area, then zero in on the problem spot and finally the problem source, which will be quite small and fixable.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No relationship is perfect. Conflict is a fact of life. What matters is the desire to live in harmony. Some things won't be solved, but the intent to solve them counts for a lot.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Those who do wrong will self-punish, while those who do right will self-reward. In light of this, there is no need to condemn or elevate anyone, so avoid the pressures (or pleasures, as the case may be) of judgment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Ever the entertainer, you don't have to worry about being perceived as boring -- it's just not an option. Behaving in such a way that others will find humorous or fascinating is part of your subconscious plan.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Things have changed. You're no longer sure what you want. The big picture seems overwhelming, but you can put your finger on the following question: In the coming six weeks, how do you think you can best serve your people?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Maybe you'll call out the untruth when you hear it; you always hear it. Then again, people need their defenses. A lie can seem very small next to your big, gracious heart. And so, you let it slide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A long time ago you made a commitment. Do you remember why you made that choice? That answer will be the light that guides you. If it's hard to answer this question, maybe it's time to reevaluate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The goal seems achievable, yet you haven't. It's not for lack of desire, and you've certainly put in work, but something is just off. Either change the goal or change the plan. An outsider's perspective will help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It is logical to believe that if you do the right thing, then the next right thing and the next, you will eventually achieve success. This only works if your "right things" are aligned in a row toward the target. Organize your efforts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Bad habits die hard but die they will for those who keep trying things until something works. Ideally, you'll believe in yourself, but if you don't, that's OK too. Just act "as if" for a while and one day it will be true.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When a friend needs a listening ear, you'll resist the urge to tell your own story (especially an exciting, glamorous version that few can relate to) and give your full attention.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 24). That great universal force called attraction is working for you. Somewhere between tiny electrons flying around the nucleus of atoms and the grand galactic swirl is you, following the attractions you find meaningful. Your love will be well-placed and reciprocated. What you accomplish in a supportive group will amaze. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 30, 9, 6 and 41.

Universal SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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SOLUTIONS

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