

Ba-dum-tss by Michael B. Berg

Universal Crossword edited by Amanda Radfkin

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-69 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 *Photograph, 5 *Alcoholic treat that jiggles, 10 *Free throw, 14 Turkish currency, 15 Fiji competitor, 16 Brand of dog food, 17 Rapper/actor in "SVU", 18 It might be hard to resist, 20 Hawaiian geese, 22 Dissenting votes, 23 Swimwear in a Sisqo hit, 24 Tiny particles, 26 West of old Hollywood, 27 Pranked using bathroom tissue, for short, 28 Rest area?, 32 Went after, 35 ___ tai, 36 Just all right, 37 "Told ya!", 38 Drum stroke after a punchline ... or a hint to interpreting the starred clues' answers, 41 West Bank grp., 42 How a WNBA game may end, 44 Prefix with "binary", 45 Attaches, like a patch, 47 Wage, 49 Car part that can be used as a swing, 50 Angsty genre, 51 Blush or foundation, e.g., 55 Despises, 58 Honey ___! (cereal), 59 Animal whose name means "laziness", 60 Environmentally friendly travel, 63 End in ___ (come out even), 64 Prefix with "nautical", 65 Present-day deliveryman?, 66 Name hidden in "copped an attitude", 67 *Tricky tennis stroke, 68 *Like eyes after an all-nighter, maybe, 69 *Powerful hockey hit, 28 Cry of contempt, 29 "My bad!", 30 Capital by a fjord, 31 *Apollo mission, e.g., 32 *Short golf stroke, 33 Actress ___ Mae Lee, 34 "Howdy, sailor!", 35 AOL alternative, 39 "The Simpsons" bartender, 40 Semesters, e.g., 43 Where a Christmas angel might be placed, 46 Young'uns, in Scotland, 48 "Are not!" comeback, 49 Throw at, 51 Slacks fabric, 52 Tally, 53 1986 Turner autobiography, 54 *Low blow, 55 *Photo in an actor's portfolio, 56 Laptop brand, 57 Bull, in Spanish, 58 Like dissertation defenses, 61 Computer port letters, 62 Furious

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022 Restless Moon



The restless Virgo moon tugs at Venus and begs favors from Uranus. Waiting is pointless. Jump into the game whether or not you know how it's played. As long as the ante is low, you'll be fine. Education always has costs. Sometimes you pay for instruction; other times payment takes the form of loss -- the fastest, most efficient teacher of all.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may have good reasons for feeling guarded around a certain someone. Perhaps your unconscious is receiving warning signs that your conscious mind has yet to pick up on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've grown and changed in both intended and unintended ways. Reassess. If you were a character in a novel, how would you describe yourself at this point in the journey?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). With time and consistent effort in one direction, you can have what you want. You'll make cuts today. You'll let go of the distractions and dead weight that keep you from the aligned focus you need to be successful.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It is only through retrospect that you can understand the feelings, secrets and insights hidden in your psyche. Writing will improve your memory. The more you get down, the deeper you can go.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You appreciate helpful friendliness, although you don't always trust it. You like to know what everyone has to gain from a situation. Today you'll distinguish the genuinely kindhearted from those who are up to something.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People need entertainment. Bored people are unpleasant at best, dangerous at worst. That's where you come in. You've a talent for keeping people occupied, amused and delighted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The situation gets out of hand. This is how you know it's energized. You can use this! In time you'll figure out how to constructively apply the resource. For now, just notice. Determine what's under your control and focus there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can only do so much by yourself. Share ideas with a group. Seek those with different but complementary skills. You'll find you can help one another accomplish goals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Before something exists, it doesn't. And when it doesn't, it's often unimaginable. Maybe right now you can't quite find a hopeful image to wrap your head around, but can you have faith in the unimaginable future?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Add joy to your day proactively and you'll avoid unwanted overindulgences. Trying new things counts, too, as it's possible that you have yet to meet the activity or interest that will bring you much continued pleasure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When territorial instincts are triggered, all bets are off. Such issues hit at a primal and irrational level of being and will not be settled through logic -- but you'll find other ways to harmonize the situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The important things will take longer than you expect because they are more involved than they seem on the surface. This pace is perfect, though; it gives you time to develop skills to meet the complexity of the situation.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 13). Magic happenings will encourage you along a path. But this is not predestined. You decide what you want to learn, then the right teacher will come into your life. Advanced levels of your journey feature a valuable bestowment. It's not the actual object but what it represents to you that will make a difference. Pisces and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 1, 28 and 40.

Universal SUDOKU

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

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

9x9 grid for solutions to the Sudoku puzzle.

SOLUTIONS

9x9 grid showing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle.

Statheads by Erik Agard

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 "Let's get this show on the ___", 5 Covered up, 8 Greeting to a matey, 12 R&B star India.___, 13 Exalting poem, 14 Leia's twin, 15 Designation for the Nelson-Atkins Museum's ~19-foot-high shuttlecocks, 18 2009 Miranda Lambert song about a cheater, 19 Scared, 22 Game spelled by removing "w" from "Twister" and rearranging the rest, 26 "Birds of ___", 27 Third-smallest country, 31 Prefix for "dynamic", 32 Group of whales, 33 "You serious?", 35 2021 WNBA champs, 36 Roster of people hoping to be admitted, 39 The ___ (New York City borough), 41 Donkey, biblically, 42 Far from excitable, 45 West African currency units, 47 Understands, 48 Ultimately became, 50 "You couldn't find any more?", 51 Mo. when the new year festival Quviasukvik starts, 52 All-out brawl, 54 Game with Reverse cards, 55 Sports stat that's a hint to the initials and meanings of 15-, 18- and 36-Across, 60 In-flight guesses: Abbr., 61 Rowboat tool, 62 Lightsaber fight, 63 Given a new hue, 64 Pig's place, 65 Fried okra, e.g., 29 Vases with bases, 30 Authorities' rules, for short, 33 "There, it should work now", 34 Oct. 20 zodiac sign, 37 Author Moody or Bronte, 38 Wooden strip, 39 Didn't stay colorfast, 40 Kept for another season, 43 Tool for making yarn by hand, 44 This, in Spanish, 46 Japanese wrestling form, 47 Clarified butter in biryani, 49 Mexican money, 50 Novelist McMillan, 53 Aspiring attorney's exam, 56 Scottish no, 57 "Acid", 58 Music holders in cases, 59 French yes

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022 Thoughts for a Mars Passage



As Mars crosses into ethereal Pisces, try this one on: Nothing is indispensable. Everything can be released. With this attitude, you won't be so worried about loss that you cling to things. Because you don't hold on too tightly to any relationship or material item, everything breathes. All ties are loose enough to blow in the breeze of freedom.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've tried to slot someone into a pattern that suited you, and it worked for a while, but ultimately each must answer to individual needs... an inevitability of life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People can be unpredictable, erratic and irresponsible. That doesn't make them less lovable to you, but it does mean you'll have to think ahead or work around them to achieve your desired outcome.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will avoid the frustration that inevitably comes with not getting what you want by simply not wanting it. Your cosmic gift of the day is the amazing ability to just drop it and instead desire something right within reach.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). No one learns alone. "Self-taught" is a myth. Learning begins by watching, listening to and following the teacher. Today's teacher may be a book, a principle or an unfolding event. You'll soak up all you need to know.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You usually don't like it when people who don't need help ask for it anyway. But you has the time to make sure each request is legit? Today it won't matter. You'll help others and you're the one who will end up feeling lucky.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your problems are not to blame for what ails you. Rather, these complications are what will grow you into a more creative and resourceful person. The things you must do to survive and thrive will be the source of your strength.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Those who make excuses or pass blame deprive themselves of the chance to learn the right way to do a task. You recognize this in others and avoid making the same mistake.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Out of modesty and social grace, you don't always highlight your accomplishments and all you've got going on. However, right now there's someone near who will benefit from your work. So, talk it up!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Growth takes time, but it doesn't take forever. You've been patient, nurturing and positive, yet things haven't formed to the shape you needed them to be. Nothing is so essential you can't let it go. Start over now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The task at hand is something you would do even if you were not paid to. Even so, don't offer it for free. People will value it better if they pay for it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Whatever you're working with, make it your own. Forget about what a thing was designed to do. What do you need it to do? You'll get completely original results because you're not bound to the rules.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To live in harmony is as much about hitting the right tones as it is about getting the timing right. You pace yourself to strike the right mood with the right moment.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 14). Implausible happenings blossom in your life, so don't limit your wishing to that which seems reasonable. You'll be dealing in realms that don't exist at the time of this reading, so send your hopes to the stars and your plans to the outer edges, and keep pushing. New scenes are painted with the vitality of your passion. Virgo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 44, 38, 9 and 5.

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