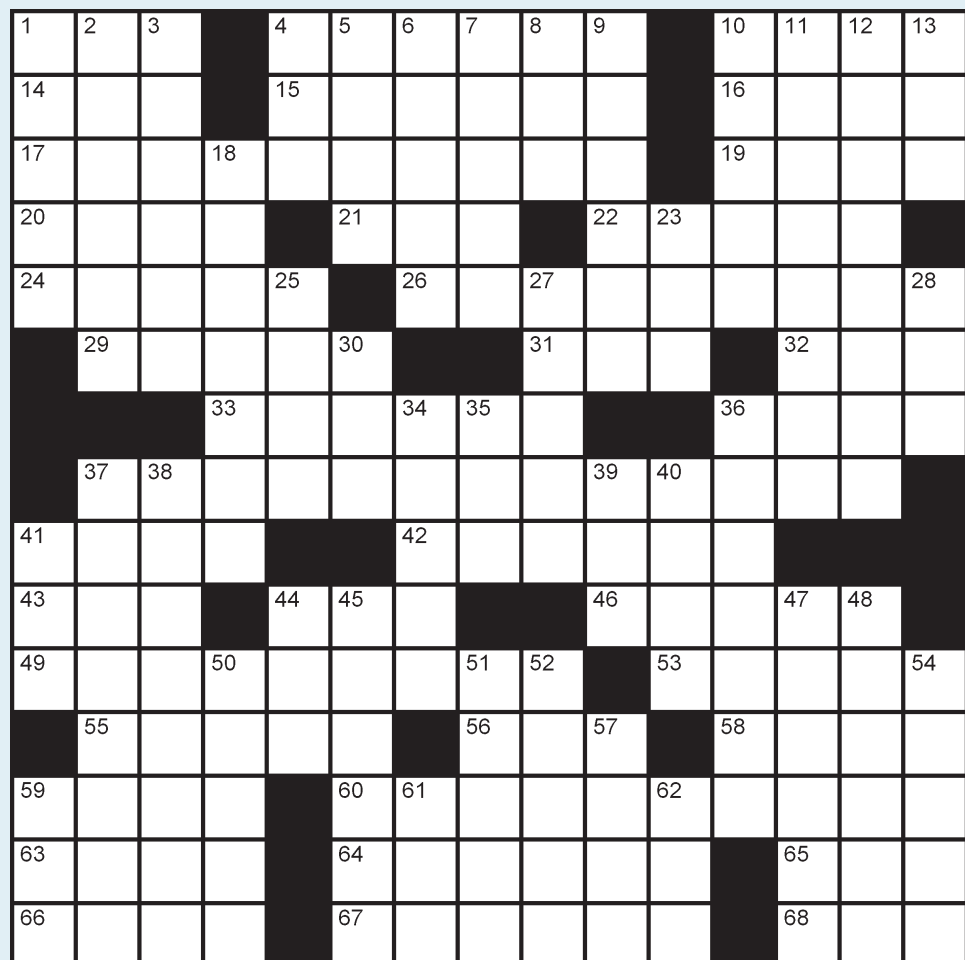


Keep Your Mitts Off! by Katherine Baicker and Laura Dershewitz

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Sun blocker, 4 Leave isolated, 10 Socially slight, 14 Political strategist Navarro, 15 Evening party, 16 Salad with bacon and eggs, 17 \*It may follow first and ten, 19 Mine finds, 20 Frenzied way to run, 21 \_\_\_ Perignon, 22 Mission lead-in?, 24 Fearful, 26 \*Place to buy fresh produce, 29 Pet birds' confines, 31 "Exit full screen" key, 32 What you \_\_\_ is what you get, 33 Self-reflective question, 36 Tortilla option, 37 Unseen market force, or a hint to what can follow each starred answer's first word and precede its last word.
DOWN: 1 Gets to work on, 2 Pale and tired, perhaps, 3 City near Seattle, 4 Govt. ID, 5 Sondheim barber Sweeney, 6 Free from, 7 Scratch-and-sniff sticker feature, 8 \_\_\_ and improved, 9 Jeans, 10 Activist Coretta \_\_\_ King, 11 Unhelpful response to "Why?", 12 Geek among geeks, 13 Dangerous pellets, 18 "Fine, you win!", 23 Foreign policy grp., 25 Arnaz who loved Lucille Ball, 27 Sizzle \_\_\_ (pitch tapes), 28 Rest room?, 30 Solange, to Beyonce, informally, 34 Bone that a shin guard protects, 35 Credential for many a CFO, 36 More spiteful, 37 "To heck with this!", 38 Meaningless philosophy?, 39 Subj. with conversation topics, 40 Pile, 41 911 responder: Abbr., 44 Major 1990 civil rights law, briefly, 45 Former HBO series "with Bob and David", 47 Arise, 48 Chimpanzees' relatives, 50 Wedding and bar mitzvah, 51 "Broad City" star Glazer, 52 Volcanic flows, 54 Pago Pago, American \_\_\_, 57 Eight bits, 59 Elizabethan or Victorian, 61 Afore, 62 Disney frame

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2022 Stars of Self-consciousness



As Venus and Pluto square off, the biggest barrier to awareness is self-consciousness, which can manifest in nervousness, myopic vision, sensory processing problems, selective listening and the like. Self-consciousness is a form of fear. Techniques for dealing with fear can be applied to remedy the state.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Ambition and drive are cosmic gifts that sometimes can feel like a curse. You'll do what it takes to make your plans happen as close to your imaginings as possible.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're well aware of the risks involved in a venture, which is why you prefer to be around the optimistic people who don't mention danger at every turn.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If the needle of time were to go back to the beginning of the record it would still play the same song. There's no point to longing, regret or wishing things were any other way than they are right now.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't always have the luxury of choosing what style you'll receive your life in. Some things only come one way. The rarer a thing is, the fewer your options. All the more reason to appreciate this unique package.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may not get the reaction you were going for because this isn't a movie, and no one is following your script. Even so, roll with the improvisational moment and brilliance ensues.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). While accidentally ignoring things is a recipe for disaster, ignoring a thing on purpose will be an effective tactic for the win. Neglect is an especially useful state when applied to unwanted things.

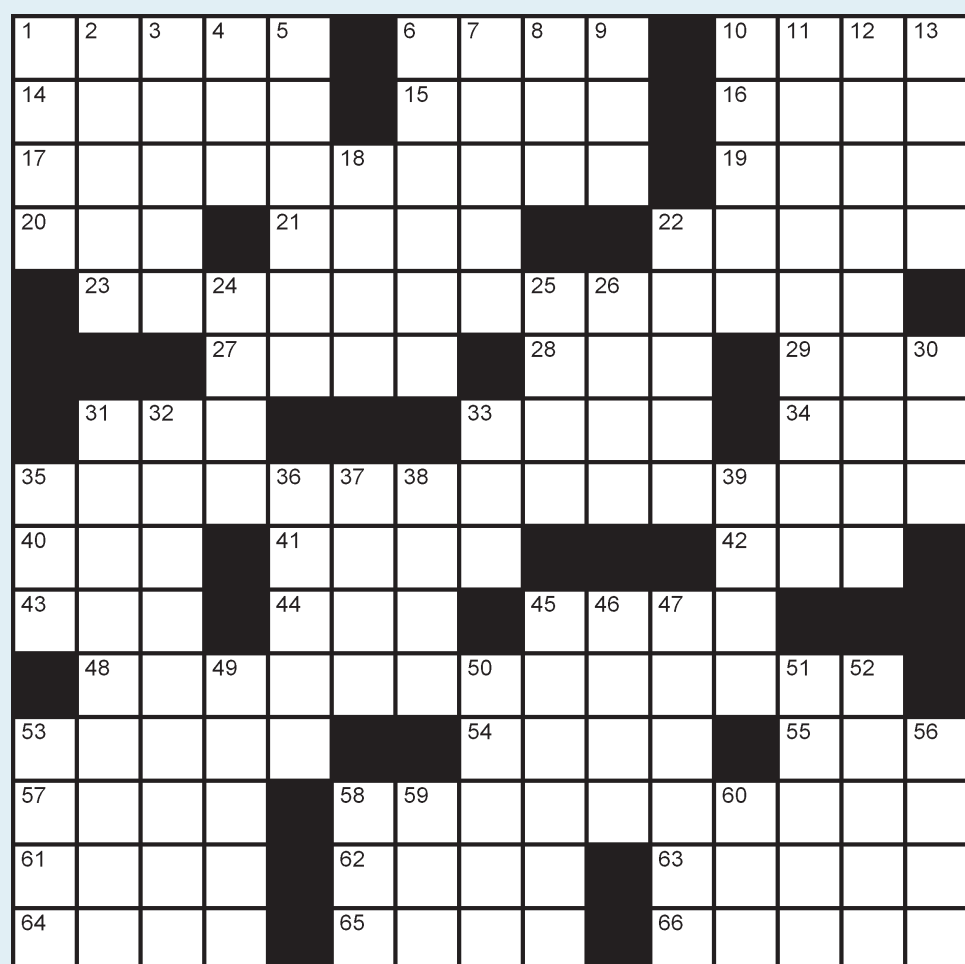
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A deadline looms. A decision must be made. Here are your choices: Do it well, do it on time or do it within your budget. Pick two. Only two are possible.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Friends point to your strengths, critics point to your faults and loved ones accept you for both. Unconditional love is real. You know this because you give and receive it.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't stick to the recipe when you don't have all the ingredients. Lack leads to invention. You'll change it up and create something better for the challenge.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You take on the issues of society like they were your own. It's almost as though your connection to humanity carries a great weight of responsibility... yep. Now, why don't the others seem to know this?
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't have to have the necessary experience before you start. You'll pick it up as you go, just as you always have. Each relationship teaches you something different.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Liking a person is one thing; the day-to-day of a committed relationship is quite another. No need to think too far into things, though. Relationship success is creating fun in one moment at a time.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 27). A sale allows you to make a dream project your reality. You'll get more productive even as you work less because you have a tremendous talent for setting the right goals and picking people who will help you achieve them. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 4, 13, 16 and 9.

Universal SUDOKU. Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. Includes a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled and a difficulty rating of 4 stars.

SOLUTIONS. A 9x9 grid showing the completed Sudoku puzzle with all numbers filled in.

Liquid Assets by Matt Westman

Universal Crossword edited by David Steinberg



- ACROSS: 1 Scoped out, 6 Former Swedish automaker, 10 Play on repeat, 14 Plentiful, 15 Boundary, 16 Present opener?, 17 Self-serving use of government funds, 19 Sobbed, 20 Basketball legend Bird, 21 Camembert cousin, 22 Highest grade, 23 Replacement on the mound, 27 Affirmative votes, 28 Hosp. diagnostic scan, 29 Covers in Cottonelle, briefly, 31 Co. leader, 33 Short \_\_\_ (beef cut), 34 Shout of disapproval, 35 Icon in Wikipedia's search bar, 40 3-letter "Wow!", 41 Fed a line to, 42 Resource to refine, 43 Church bench, 44 Ctrl-\_\_\_-Del, 45 Moreover, 48 He finds a Willy Wonka golden ticket, 53 One may be stuffed at a Greek restaurant, 54 Corporate symbol, 55 Sashimi tuna, 57 Participate in the 2022 midterms, 58 Seems valid, or what the end of 17-, 23-, 35- or 48-Across does, 61 Previously owned, 62 Toddler's injury, 63 Alpaca relative, 64 Flat-topped landform, 65 "\_\_\_ of the D'Urbervilles", 66 What aptly bookends "satisfies".
DOWN: 1 Baseball players' headwear, 2 Love, in 24-Down, 3 Buying binge, 4 Antlered animal, 5 "Singin' in the Rain" star Reynolds, 6 What Helvetica and Arial lack, 7 TV spot seller, 8 Get more mature, 9 "\_\_\_ Canto" (Ann Patchett novel featuring an opera singer), 10 Highly acidic, 11 Hotel brunch station, 12 Deliberately, 13 Peach parts, 18 2D measurement, 22 Scoring on a serve, 24 French city with a big cat on its flag, 25 "It's showtime!", 26 Math course featuring angles, 30 Distress signal, 31 Almost made it, 32 Clear ingredients at an 11-Down, 33 Pot top, 35 Floor cleaner, 36 "Why should \_\_\_?", 37 F, on a gas gauge, 38 Cryptozoological beast, 39 Appearance, 45 Dwellings, 46 Carries with difficulty, 47 Grumpy expressions, 49 Vegan beauty brand, 50 Historic New York island, 51 Really annoy, 52 Crossword feature, often, 53 Female gamete, 56 Some Fidelity plans, briefly, 58 Sweltering, 59 Be in debt, 60 In the manner of

HOROSCOPES BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022 Cosmic Cautionary Tale



The Venus move into the sign of money comes with a warning. As exciting as it is to acquire things, we pay with little chunks of our freedom. Dogs must be walked, cars fueled, relationships tended. We're wise to consider costs beyond the tag. Even in high-dollar situations, money is usually the easiest currency involved in a purchase.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Given the choice between a grand armchair adventure via video game or movie and a small, heartfelt gesture between friends, you'd take the latter every time. Your weekend plans will be proof of this.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The question will arise: "Who would I be without my quirky fears?" Answer: "You, only more accomplished." Don't mistake neurosis for personality or let anxiety keep you from experiencing life to the fullest.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Take a step back from the race. With the benefit of distance, you'll see how winnable this really is for you. You'll also notice there is more than one way to win it.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have a talent for warming people up and making them feel safe with you -- as though whatever happens, you'll handle it. For this reason, the night will belong to you.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your cosmic gift of the day is one of reading people at a glance. You'll notice what they want. By the way, you're under no obligation to give it. Just helping someone feel seen is a gift too.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll notice that the more you enjoy yourself, the less it matters what you look like doing it. Your need for people to respond in a particular way to you seems to diminish with the pursuit of today's endeavor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You are well aware of the repellent effect of arrogance, and you also know how unappealing insecurity is. So, you walk a thin line, and your quiet confidence will be most attractive.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Commit to fun. Commit to folly. Commit to not knowing which is which. The important thing is to commit. Half in and half out will be completely nowhere.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Achilles had his heel, Samson had precarious hair, and you have your own version of a small vulnerability that has a disproportionately huge impact on your strength. Protect yourself accordingly.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). At some point your work leaves your hands and has a life of its own. You'll find peace in the transition and joy in watching what used to belong to you go to the next person and the next and then the world at large.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you were to exceed expectations in all areas of life, you'd only annoy those around you. The specialty you've chosen will help those around you today, and as for the rest, you'll let it go and enjoy the ensuing popularity.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A new friendship brings unanticipated rewards. You didn't strike up this relationship to expand your social influence, but it's happened anyway. Don't make much of it. Stay focused on what's important.
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 28). Share your ideas. When you're in that mood, your kind of smarts will light up a crowd. And when you're not, there will be people around you to help and love, which is your favorite way of sharing your gifts. Nature figures into your good fortune, perhaps through the purchase or exploration of wild expanses. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 20, 4, 44 and 17.

Universal SUDOKU. Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. Includes a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled and a difficulty rating of 5 stars.

SOLUTIONS. A 9x9 grid showing the completed Sudoku puzzle with all numbers filled in.