

20% About [Name]

as told to Ucaimhu by Mary Magdalene Horowitz

Remember how in the movie *All About Steve*, I was so crazy about that lovable, strong, centered, divine male I completely messed up a crossword I was writing? Well, it happened again. Five times. Yes, for five other guys:

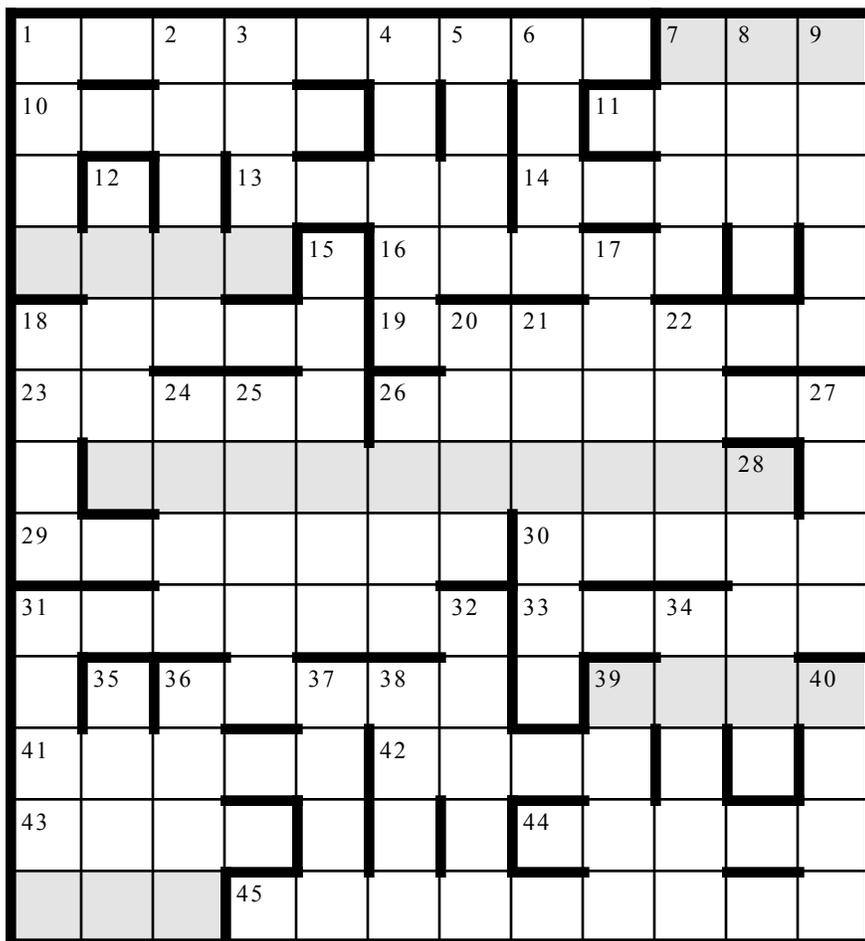
- (1) I duplicated a word! How irregular!
- (2) I used a two-letter word!
- (3) I used too many black squares — over twice as many as I should have!
- (4) After making the whole thing symmetrical, I wrecked the symmetry at the end!
- (5) I left something “unchecked”!

Meanwhile, in *this* puzzle, all the Across answers must be altered before entry, in five ways (four each way) corresponding to (1) though (5) above. (Answers before alteration include two two-word phrases; answers after alteration include two proper names and a hyphenated word.) In addition, each of the shaded entries (which are not clued, but just hinted at somewhere on this page) must be altered in one of these ways to yield the name of the corresponding guy.

The Down answers are entered normally, but half of the clues contain an extra word, and half contain an extra letter; these extras must be removed before solving. The extra-letter clues occur in groups of three; if you put the guys’ names (in order by which alteration formed each name, (1) through (5)) in place of these three-letter sequences (“trigrams”), the resulting sequence of names and extra words will form three consecutive cryptic clues without straight definitions.

Even without definitions, you may be able to solve these clues; they clue three five-letter words, in alphabetical order, that together form

a phrase (without “dictionary nature”) designating something spiffy I might perhaps get here in New York. But if you want a definition for all three, arrange the trigrams (in order by the position, top to bottom in the grid, of the names that replace them) to form a 3x5 rectangle, thus spelling out something I might soon get back in California!



ACROSS

1. “Cueball” gets altered, like every answer hereabouts
10. Missouri granny hugs leader of the state
11. Baseball feat involved peril, aptly
13. Teaching Una to dice bananas
14. Klaus’s dad assumes Klaus’s rear to be more voluminous
16. Hotness of ex involved in dope ring
18. Thorium-230 is obviously not indexed under “metals,” initially
19. Straight or \cap -shaped letters inscribed in RV & dune buggy
23. Old Greek character’s burden
26. Garment protecting the head thug
29. Upon reflection, 0.001 inch is narrow
30. Scam to obtain Bill’s partner’s envelope
31. Ripped top off shop
33. Former studier of astringent compound
36. Perverse, semi-evil finks are very hungry
41. Bodies of water a sailboat goes around
42. Covert ax-user hides yew tree
43. Plant or animal doctor at church
44. “Note,” written differently!
45. Model has small entourage

DOWN

1. Director DeMille curtailed this pirouetting in France (4)
2. Writer Sinclair supported by peons west of Tewkesbury (5)
3. Bard bent flier from the ’30s (1-3)
4. Word said when leaving spot that is on the right of parvenue (5)
5. Holding contests where people spell “Hymenoptera” (4)
6. Mixed ales and meads up (4)
7. Sympathy for unfortunates in quarry land in Argentina (4)
8. Area in back, near 75% of nobleman’s fencing equipment (4)
9. Like clichés in a chart a Phoenician community had (5)
12. At Bear Creek (5)
15. Sy first airs incorrect name for Arafat (6)
17. Sound of mead ad? Oui (5)
18. I praised parents’ kid’s bird (5)
20. Have heard about Zorro’s symbol for years, being inquisitive (4)
21. To 300 absorbing oxygen and aluminum like spherical bacteria (6)

22. Partly expect Gore to head northward for military program (4, *abbr.*)
24. None inside ran around with depilatory product (4)
25. Not-yet-seen bunion bothered T-men (5)
26. Circle or ring under *2001* on computer (4)
27. Moved TV through water and twisting, cavernous openings (4)
28. The solver’s nude revue number (gevalt!) comes up (3’2)
31. Wager about ten gutless, puny somersaults with little aggressiveness (4 1)
32. Lines from Sonny’s manuscript, “Beneath Neptune’s Realm” (5)
34. Ms. Derek’s collaborator besieging the land of Munchkins and fools (5)
35. Heard Don Corleone drinks in bar (4)
36. Third asst. certainly gets upset about cold (4, *abbr.*)
37. John of Jacob the millionaire is almost completely written on (2 2)
38. *Tres bizarre* ways cards travel (4, *abbr.*)
39. Shook half of Ibsen’s sails (4)
40. Cairn-raiser sits by river all the time (4)