

Apple & Rosebud by Ucaoimhu

This dual birthday celebration takes place at a showing of *The Apple* at midnight *and* at the Rosebud Diner half a day later. Correspondingly, one grid column (which is not shown) may be to the left *or* right of the grid. To enable this, some Across clues have *two* valid answers, one extending beyond a side of the grid shown and one not. (I have omitted enumerations and tagging for all Across clues.) There are also other decisions to make:

(1) Several other clues (some Across, some Down) also have two answers, differing not by length but by which of two specific letters goes into one unchecked square. In each such clue, the wordplay yields a letter sequence in which the ambiguous letter is replaced by two equal-length compass directions. From the center of the ambiguous square, draw two lines, in the two given directions; make horizontal and vertical lines four squares long, and diagonal lines two square-diagonals long.

(2) The Down clues are shown in alphabetical order by answer; they must be matched with their clue numbers. (The 9-letter Down answer goes in the unnumbered extra column of the grid.) Once this is done, for every *unambiguous* clue (Across *or* Down) write the first and last character of the clue next to the clue number.

1	2		3	4	5		6
7				8			
		9		10		11	
12				13			
14							
15	16		17	18	19		20
		21					
22				23			
24				25			

Once all of the above is complete: If the extra column is on the left, the lines from (1) will show the two letter options from (1); if it is on the right they will show two other relevant characters. Also, the “first characters” from (2) will state what two characters can be attached to the left-hand version to make a relevant word. Meanwhile, the “last characters” will ambiguously state a characteristic of one or the other title item.

ACROSS

1. Resembling aught or naught Ovid destroyed
4. Exams taken by seniors chasing earth mammals that aren't rodents
7. Very last part of the radical, semi-sexy *filidh*'s output, say
8. Levi's made violent round looping letter for a pope
9. Badly overenergized crest is put into concealment
12. Things with teeth up front resembling bent saps
13. Earth-tiller filled with liquid is what might pierce something
14. About a bacchante-shaped iceman that's given a d__
15. Illusory imagery initially obscured piece
18. Prefix meaning “containing element 7 or element 50” doing a reverse run
21. Charlemagne totally conceals a device employing the force lodestones exert
22. Rotate sleek, mostly-underwater entities
23. Native American, before 1000!
24. The Spanish Diana's about to go without moving forward
25. Vocally expresses emotion musician Brian loves

DOWN CLUE NUMBERS

- 2.
- 3.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 16.
- 17.
- 19.
- 20.

DOWN CLUES

- Oakland ballplayers outside of Woburn we'd totally beat, perhaps (4)
- A fluffy, chocolatey Bar None bearing Alfa instead of Zulu (4)
- Name of Cho from *Harry Potter and the Truncation of Leva or Lei* (5)
- Descendants turned up with more than one letter (4)
- Denizen of New Haven eviscerated the patrician (5)
- Honey that was not lacking something paradigmatic (7)
- Noir-styled *Case of the Well-Equipped Obi-Wearers* (4)
- Every other bit of mooring we saw is what may be seen by looking at Tolkienian *palantiri* (4)
- Makes a mistake when running a restaurant without fifty “lovers' alcoves” (9)
- Notes about Boston's subway tracks (4, *abbr.*)
- Said to observe location (4)
- A kind of whale going up Mississippi swallows each (5)
- Attack, with the aid of current university employees back in Cambridge (4)