

# I Scrambled Here

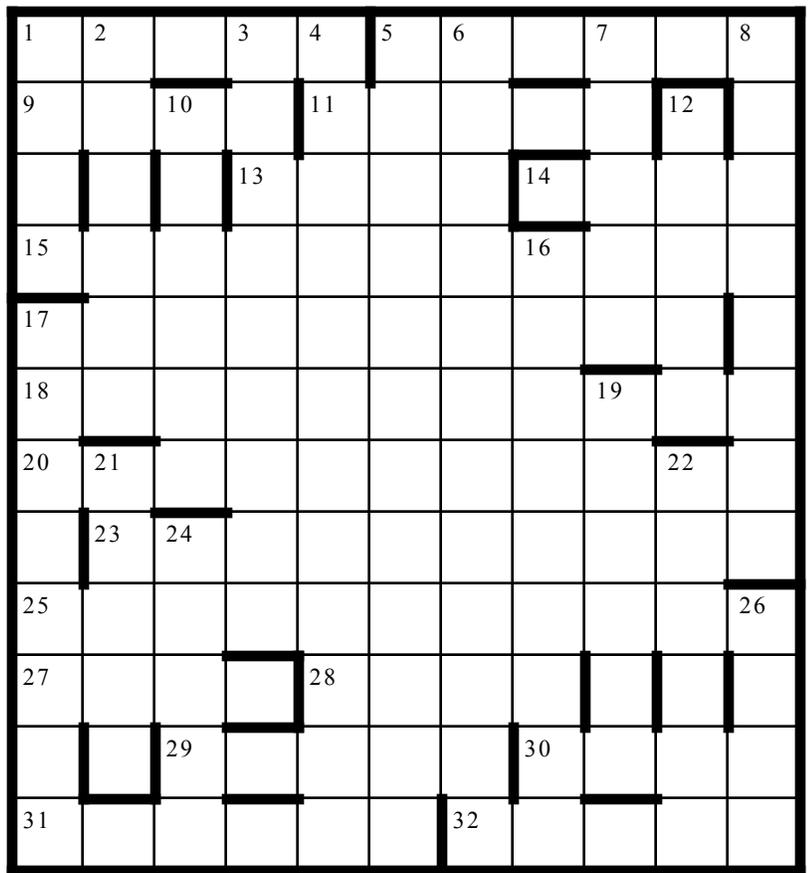
by Ucaoinmhu

This grid's outer rows and columns (those 1–3 units from the edge) contain 24 entries. For 12, you must anagram one word in the clue before solving; for the other 12, you must anagram the answer (in one case, to a two-word term) before entry. For each anagram, if *n* is the (earliest) position the first letter winds up in, take the *n*th letter in the clue; in clue order these letters will form a “cryptic” clue with no definition part, whose surface says what I finally did this year (after, sadly, missing the first four of these events).

The remaining, central rows and columns each have only one “clue”; for some this is indeed one clue for one entry, but for most the “clue” is really two side-by-side clues for two entries, to be entered in order with a bar between them. (Three entries will be two-word phrases; “2 wds.” tags on their clues have been omitted.) The new bars will form shapes embracing certain squares. For any entry that intersects such a square, take the first or last letter in its clue as indicated by the letter in that square (*not* by its position within the entry); in clue order, these will mention a few “magic” letters in the grid. Put a dot at the center of every embraced square and magic-letter square; connect any two different-lettered dots that are less than three *columns* apart. The resulting figure, if entirely shaded in, will indicate a word; this word, the magic and embraced letters, and the shapes, will all form one final anagram.

## ACROSS

1. Gardner, after the halfway point, must post
5. On the radio, athlete Steffi's describing plots
9. Look at every other letter from Alcaeus experts
11. Edward's left Arthur and Henry's planet
13. Dehydrated Brontë character's tossing club around
14. Fleece-clad female kisses Denver's closing pitcher
15. Tube's flaws upset one in author Grey's madcap set
17. Allowing engine noise to conceal hesitant utterance by Romney
18. Glaswegian out of cooked fare in Oz is confused by Monsieur Herzl's political approach
20. Nice hog badly aping Em or Mame's sound chip, e.g.
23. Later publicity about cowgirl riled Asian diarist Nin
25. Heartless Castro, from inside Cuba, airs things like the shot put and javelin throw
27. Wear at the edges of tablet
28. Astonishingly, Leia exhibits tugs, in part
29. The last one in Britain to have left author Fitzgerald



30. Hubs, for example, fit right inside bricks of sugar
31. Hot tub Ruby didn't destroy
32. Brainstorms start to arise in the middle of the month

## DOWN

1. Creatures like the lion and tiger that Belgian crosses
2. Staves off, say, vacuous transcendentalists
3. At the end we like to be coated with dirt and plant fat
4. Show chop surrounded by over-shortened ziti I (before I doze groggily) add a nutrient to
5. Criminy — tongue for an Ethiopian deli, sent hastily, is covered with shiny stuff
6. Gilbert from *Rosanne* put on garb from Rome, a New York town Dave plastered with Hindu scripture
7. At one, in Berlin, received Netmail at home (2 wds.)
8. Diana Ross et al. dine with silly mere mortals at last
10. Rising entertainer Neil Patrick says, “You travel!”
12. Internist (say) is swallowing (for instance) eels
16. Spanish girl in an offbeat discussion of Scottish rutabagas and tides of minimal range
17. *Ladyhawke* recasts Michelle's “noisy” (bah!) tree
19. Central walls in center of bar with less pinot
21. A stone pile roughly 1” above runes
22. Bird that lame person had given to the church
24. The interior parts of devices that draw stars
26. Perhaps medium heard audible bathers