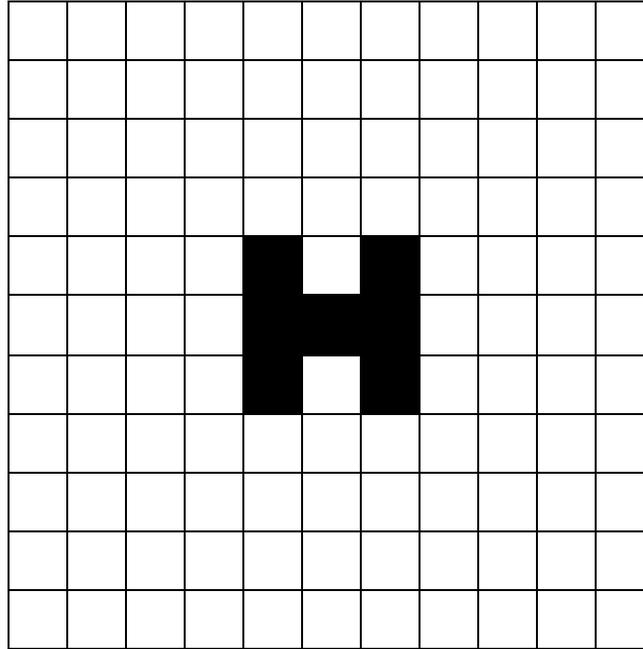


An exceedingly difficult

Puzzle

by John de Cuevas



Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to nine letters), then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right margin continue on the next line, and down words that don't end at the bottom margin continue in the next column. Across words and down words don't always mesh properly. Specifically, one letter that occurs in eight across words and six down words should not be entered in the grid at all. Instead, enter the letters of the crossing words that don't mesh. By the way, those seven blacked-out squares in the middle of the grid aren't intended to mark word endings. Let words straddle them as necessary.

Clues:

Across

1. Control tackle
2. Jack was quite the cutup
3. Manages to mess up credits
4. Hold out a hand at right angles to the wind
5. Dryness of laundered T-shirt
6. Reinterpret this as no surprise
7. Let off in time reversal
8. Hear cat breaking windpipe
9. Applaud happiness
10. An unpositive year
11. Reclassify genera so as to infuriate
12. Dear Gene is condemned as a traitor
13. Take it up in the elevator
14. _____ *Crazy*
15. Ripe cantaloupe with nut
16. Vegetable said not to hold water
17. Gossip honestly, holding tube
18. Ty takes us in with silken threads
19. Two-step for a bird
20. Seaside's unhealthy, leads to infections

Down

1. Dad gets "E" in his weight class
2. Turn up chain store fruit
3. Blacken drink while part of game
4. Fight room keeper
5. Modern composer put in confinement
6. Noticing anagram with nothing added for knowledge
7. Excellent country for antelope
8. Bergson has lots of energy
9. Measure chin inaccurately
10. Said Julius (the one who grabbed all the land) . . .
11. "Eliot's river reminds us to clean our teeth"
12. Island of concrete
13. Speaking of coming out, here is enough space
14. Horsemanship, for example, in the hair on the neck
15. Hearing rubbish from the middle
16. Image rub-off from a river
17. General presidential nickname
18. Fish for Jack who eats no fat
19. Equals in looks
20. Man in top form gives order
21. The language of spin

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