

Keep Looking Up

by Ucaoimhu

This Christmas's movie involves more navigation, which requires watching the skies. Specifically:

A. Five Across answers on or above the grid's "horizon line" are in two apt categories, and have wordplay-only clues. The symmetrically opposite answers have normal clues; in clue order, read each such clue's first four letters to get two phrases, one suiting each category, and apply them to the "sky" answers (in two disputed cases taking the slightly higher number) to get five letter-digit pairings that can be assembled (in some way) into the film's title.

B. Our astronomical tables have four readability issues; alter four clue answers (before entry) to reflect each:

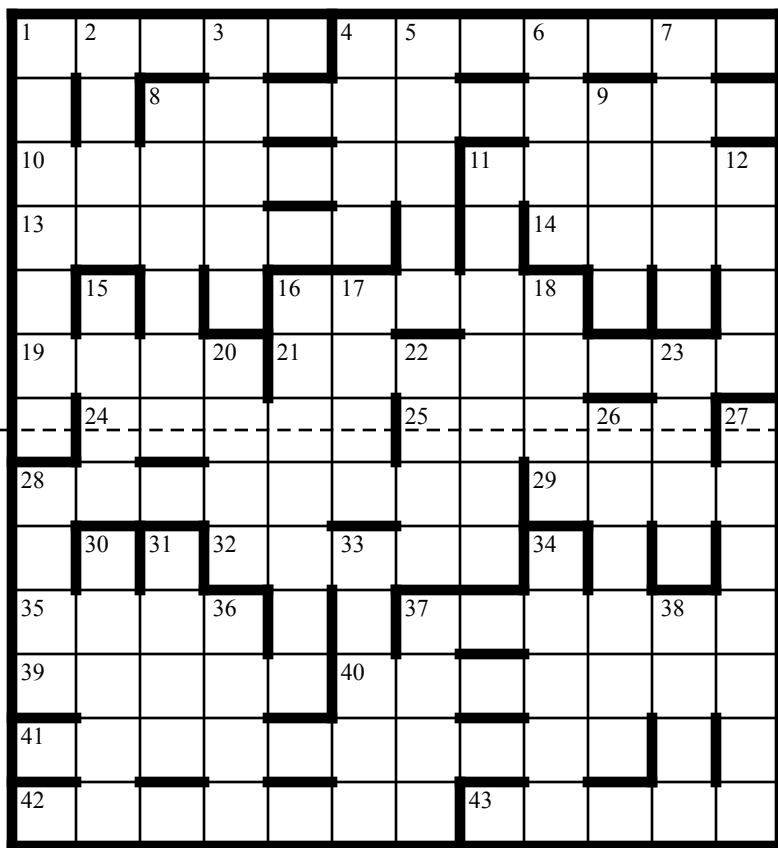
- 1. Date order.** 02/01/04 must become 04/01/02.
- 2. Date encoding.** Certain English abbreviations must become just the numbers 1–7, suitably encoded.
- 3. Spacing.** The two letters next to the center must each move outwards, to triple the gap between them.
- 4. Font.** One letter must become its cognate (not always phonetically equivalent) in a certain other alphabet.

(The sixteen altered entries will include an NI2 word, an NI3 word, and a two-word phrase.)

C. Sixteen other clues each have an extra word you must delete before solving, cluing a **B** entry going in the same Across-or-Down direction; if a **C** clue's *m*th word is extra, and its clued **B** entry comes from alteration *n*, write the *n*th letter of the **B** clue's *m*th word next to the **C** clue. Append the resulting sixteen-letter phrase *twice* to "Apply all four alterations to the name in the title from **A**" to see how to get the name of another recent movie character; then read the last two letters of each of the remaining eight (normal, Down) clues, in clue order, to see what that other character asserts during another sky-based navigation effort.

ACROSS

1. Helpful, or the opposite, after beheading carp
4. Fall prey to one wearing def semi-romper (2 wds.)
8. Lay wagers before *Glee* dancing exercise
10. DAR lady's companion's Gallic term for "silvern"
11. Trim with, say, scissors or rotating pegs
13. Before Gen X stops (gevalt!)
14. Stream expert'd inverted prefix meaning "tenfold"
16. Socialite enthralls New England
19. Ages of serfs without godlike power
21. *Egg & Sausage Party* actor Seth
24. Specialists, at the pivotal point, take over
25. 1001.3 characters from *Zardoz*
28. "Tra-la" (originally incorporating "mi-mi-mi") after "West Hawaii's Hawaiian Conger" (2 wds.)
29. Search for unlimited fat-back stew
32. Clashing pen is quill
35. Reason for the Scots root or hammer part to spin
37. SF or NYC resident's less preferred way to spell a synonym for "scant" just has one g
39. German serenades train, twice making canine sound
40. Guitar part of "O-O-Oreo" too lacks whole notes



41. Mulan's last drink, and the thirteenth or fifteenth drunk by that creature, will be least flavorful
42. Thegndom's inner group is drunk, reeling and pitching
43. Not-very-thegnlike Saxons in mare's nest [NI3]

DOWN

1. English DM and German operator with Spanish name
2. Kind of screw symbol 11 places after glyph in IM?
3. Long for one gutless guy with long aseptic limbs
4. Chef Paula hovering over east end of Wilmington, DE
5. Singer of "Your Démodé Song," not "The French Rolls"
6. Pal of enthusiast that's gotten real
7. UK org. protecting the beastly carp's iffy (*abbr.*)
8. Elevate salt marsh
9. Stave turns indigo, which is in the bottom 60% of blues
11. Rarer term for *trident* or *septet* in Newcastle is terser
12. Some corn women ultimately bring in
15. Animal transporter/smuggler Solo flips and eats egg
16. Communists ripened exotic eastern European flower
17. Naked howling git stops towards 2:15 (1 in Vienna)
18. Clown and bee circle zee and circle ell
20. Land snakes have shifted two pre-univ. exams (*abbr.*)
22. Females met *n* crooked counterfeiter's foes (*hyph.*)
23. Lake preacher's spooky decoration
26. Belgian one blocks thin illumination Sol provides
27. Sort to go north in tee to get four-carbon sugar [NI3]
28. Gets a victory that involves tin saw shaking (2 wds.)
30. Odd parts of toeprint in city near the River Nara
31. Forerunner of King Charles's hesitant comments
33. India's roofless amplex Fiat has what it takes (2 wds.)
34. Primate's clothes chiefly signal church recesses
36. Puritan character from *Outfit-Topping Letter XVI*
37. Game in an arcade or dorm that's nasty (2 wds., *abbr.*)
38. Standing up, SD pitcher ties another knot? [NI3]