

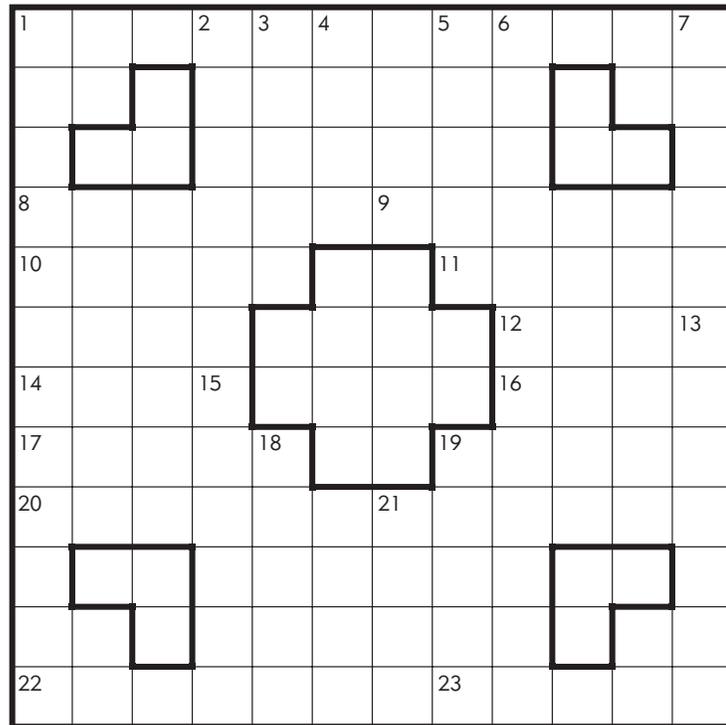
THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

Jigsaw

Answers to Across and Down clues should be entered without regard to the heavy bars, but otherwise normally. The twelve entries that contribute letters to the four Jigsaw Pieces (three-letter sections outlined with heavy bars) are clued in random order. When every answer is in place, solvers may fit the Jigsaw Pieces together in the central frame, with no turning, so as to spell (from left to right and from top to bottom) the pieced-together result. Five answers are capitalized.

Note: The instructions above are for this month's puzzle only. An introduction to clue-solving may be found online at www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm.



ACROSS

1. Pause alarm finally, interrupting deep sleep (5)
4. Kiss, embracing a company show-off (7)
8. Kitty charged small bit for spelling aid? (6)
9. Take turns at penetrating method of learning (6)
10. Dread gnats swarming about (5)
11. Well-known college in England backed down (5)
12. Buster Brown's last bow (4)
14. Handle hit the wrong way (4)
17. Lowly laborer taking interest in calligrapher's flourish (5)
19. Saw through crackpot tomfoolery, in retrospect (5)
20. Chatterbox private eye engaged by sorceror (6)
21. Free of a sum outstanding (6)
22. Board member's golf accessory bearing sign of neglect (7)
23. Hurt and shock general (5)

DOWN

1. Lot of goldfish in front of Noah's vessel (3,4)
2. Teary-eyed about a Little Red Book devotee (6)
3. Run into cunning slang (5)
4. Menial operator described by writer (4)
5. Spot crime boss and accessory (3-2)
6. Sing about florist's last houseplant (6)
7. King must have attacked in a way (5)
13. Choke, admitting wrong conclusion (7)
15. People and birds I pass in garden areas (6)
16. Rush toward me, clad in overgarment (4,2)
17. Got a whiff of silvery fish (5)
18. Leading duke maintains right (5)
19. Sends guys to the auditor (5)
21. Left in charge, run away (4)

PIECES

- a. Cup is seabird's water source (7)
- b. Look full of contempt about a \$1000 shoe (7)
- c. English city goes ahead with recital (5)
- d. Over and over, eating one bagel flavor (5)
- e. Star sat near cast (7)
- f. British monarch put away a lot of food, including last piece of cake (6)
- g. Swimming in ocean, a tan tortoise (6)
- h. Spend 500 before fall (5)
- i. Welfare official accepting story (6)
- j. Spin around independent Italian city (5)
- k. Worthless drivel in "Dreamland" (2-4)
- l. Lineman changed hair-coloring compound (7)