

ON THE STEPS OF THE PALACE

by Mark Halpin

Cinderella's Prince, in an attempt to slow down his fleeing inamorata, has spread pitch on the palace steps, depicted in gray below. Somewhere on each of the nine horizontal steps, a single "shoe" (that is to say, a single letter) has become stuck. Rather than advancing to the next square as in a normally entered answer, the letter will remain in the same square as the previously written letter. Stuck letters may occur in Across or Down entries, but always in squares in which two entries cross, and the crossing entry will become a new word.

The stuck letters, read from the top down, will reveal the object of the Prince's subsequent quest.

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	
			26		27						28			29				
30			31				32						33		34			
				35							36							
37							38						39					
40							41							42				

ACROSS

- 1 Demented hag sat open-mouthed
- 5 Split peas, after cooking, are worthy
- 10 Inundate retrograde iron lung that's corroded on the inside
- 14 Some tides go over/around bit of estuary when receding
- 15 Lustrous ring with very faint aroma
- 16 Perversely debate against potato or yam
- 17 Five hundred occupying part of a hospital's restaurant
- 18 Second-rate lawyer, in short, is nuts
- 19 Stage some *A Midsummer Night's Dream* characters in audience
- 20 Is more than one off-ramp blocked by overpass's closing?
- 22 Without a trace of irony, writes all about litter
- 24 Don't start preparing eggs for consumption
- 26 Bind by making knots through twine evenly
- 28 Letters written after doctor's shifts perhaps
- 30 Someone imagining dentist's first drill
- 32 Actress Kelly is playing Maori
- 33 It may be part of a prescription pad
- 35 Solitary type left Nevada town, heading west
- 36 Desolate, extremely silent refuge
- 37 Securing cap to one's ears
- 38 Practice in the Caribbean to be a Haitian, to some extent
- 39 Famous diarist (an alien born in France) recalled 20th century leader?
- 40 Triage's head nurse treated some key workers?
- 41 Dissent, carefully composed, is supremely sarcastic
- 42 Legendary hero's peers: surprisingly, you and I

DOWN

- 1 Criminal dealt guns and PCP (2 wds.)
- 2 Novel genre's engrossing ten baby boomers' kids (2 wds.)
- 3 One ship at sea is grotesquely silly
- 4 Noisily pulls along little piggies
- 5 Germinations in the open in periods of flowering
- 6 Penny and others brought up dish
- 7 Prepared to get a new job and retire after work
- 8 Undisciplined cadet did not remain motionless
- 9 How Magnus Carlsen might capture peasants wandering around north (2 wds.)
- 10 Excellent, the lady who first played Mama Rose
- 11 Stomach's absorbing first of six blows
- 12 Hero worshipper learned better
- 13 Correct: entering swamps is scary
- 21 O'Neill character that's unusually anemic
- 22 Cast some in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* role
- 23 Heartless phantom's enraged states
- 25 Discussed, e.g., Sicily and the Mediterranean maybe (2 wds.)
- 27 Organ's weird, plaintive noises
- 29 Get naked in Las Vegas venue
- 31 On the radio, *The Third Man* is effective
- 34 Some that buzz about social events