

I NEVER DO ANYTHING TWICE

by Mark Halpin

So sings the madam of a Viennese brothel in the Sherlock Holmes pastiche *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*. Would-be sleuths should adopt a similar philosophy when entering answers into the grid; this will result in modifications to many answers, all yielding alternate words.

Across and Down grid entries comprise a total of 200 letters. Of these, 14 letters make up a final "seven-per-cent" solution. Transferring the initial letters of the indicated grid entries into the blanks below the grid will reveal what's required to solve this puzzle.

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										

17A 23D 7D 37D 22A 35A 28A 12D 24D 11A 41A 30D 5D 34D

ACROSS

- 3 Physical appearances seem ultimately warped into fantasies
- 9 Outspoken Asian's no-win situation
- 10 Ridiculous acronym includes "H" for "bHutan", e.g.
- 11 Our tutors contrived to be painfully exacting
- 13 Doctor sees papa making attempts to be conciliatory
- 15 British nobleman embracing very quiet season
- 17 Freak finally creating a tattoo is twisting awkwardly
- 19 Codger snared in Social Security hustles
- 20 Ribs I mixed with beer; they might get palms greasy?
- 22 Five hundred and four competed, separated into groups
- 25 A quick assessment of ethics tells me all about "saint" (2 wds)
- 26 Find a nice part for a guy in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- 27 Superman's nemesis is badly hurt; Lois is missing
- 28 Offensive ad needed to be blunted
- 29 Thus, Department of Defense rebuffed numbskulls
- 33 Oddly modest health care providers (*abbr*)
- 35 *Hairspray* character entering at first and heading stage right
- 36 Works to make perfect, almost like Abe Lincoln
- 39 Epic prices: unfortunately they can be quite steep
- 40 Alternating members of theatre cast led the intimate discussion (*hyph*)
- 41 Ineptly narrate hodgepodge describing some space travel

DOWN

- 1 Chiefly semiarid, treeless ecoregions (plains, prairies, even shrublands!)
- 2 More than one batch of puppies makes a mess
- 3 Cry "food!" and pass out
- 4 Radio broadcasting scheme: just fine, or totally out of control?
- 5 Bring up nutrient found in spinach and seaweed
- 6 Three quarters of rapid notes played in a scale
- 7 Rubber tires are returned without it
- 8 Article essentially about a Van Gogh
- 12 Like a black market drug run done suspiciously
- 14 Lightly color inside of belt, perhaps being frugal
- 16 Repaired first breakdowns in relationships
- 18 Brighten up a *Saturday Night Live* comedienne
- 20 Actress initially pursues dance; does singer?
- 21 Tom's hero may become less rugged
- 23 Cook made me a Japanese dish
- 24 "Some political campaigns derailed? Nice!" said cad
- 30 God of war at the center of bloodiness
- 31 Sweeney Todd's one biting line, followed by hesitation
- 32 Topological feature that's "same, only different"
- 34 Begins sex early on with floozies
- 37 Penniless; having nothing
- 38 Eyesore!