

LET'S GET AWAY FROM THE CITY

Buon Giorno!

Florence of 1350 was perhaps not the ideal spot for a carefree summer getaway, what with the crowds, the pollution, and, oh yes, the Black Death ravaging Europe. In *The Decameron*, Giovanni Boccaccio recounts the tale of ten Florentine youths (the young men Panfilo, Filostrato, and Dioneo, and the young women Pampinea, Fiametta, Filomena, Emilia, Gabriella, Neifile, and Elissa) who flee the city and sequester themselves in a rural villa.

A hundred stories, bawdy, satirical, romantic and tragic, are told to pass the time, each of the ten youths telling one story on each of ten days. Boccaccio's description of the order of the tales is incorrect, however, and should be disregarded. He also, curiously enough, omits the fact that each of the youths additionally provided a puzzle inspired by one of their favorite yarns.

In considering the youths' period of idle story-telling and puzzle-solving, one might discover the secret to a relaxing vacation. *What is it?*

A few things worth mentioning:

- 1) Confirm individual puzzle answers by clicking the question mark in the middle of the title page. Send me your final answer to the question above at mhalpin at fuse dot net.
- 2) There's nothing in this intro that relates to the puzzles beyond that which does so explicitly.
- 3) Familiarity with the literary inspiration for these puzzles is not necessary for solving.
- 4) All puzzles may be printed out to solve.
- 5) If you enjoy the puzzles, you might consider tossing something into the tip jar. I would love to get away from the city myself, particularly when the MIT Mystery Hunt and NPL Convention roll around, and every little bit helps.
- 6) A prize in the form of a book gift certificate will be given to the first individual or pair solvers, and speedy individual and team solvers will be recognized on the Leaderboard. In order to encourage more leisurely solving as well, an additional prize will be awarded to an individual chosen at random from anyone who submits a correct solution before Monday, Sept. 19, at which point hints and solutions to the puzzles will be posted. I'll be happy to provide hints at any point to anyone who doesn't care about the Leaderboard or prizes. The whole point of this endeavor is that it be fun, so if there's any way I can assist in that, please don't hesitate to ask.

Happy Solving!

Mark / Zebraboy

DIONEIO'S PUZZLE

Dioneio's puzzle was inspired by the tale of Messer Ricciardo's wife, who is stolen by the pirate Paganino, and when Ricciardo searcheth her out and demandeth her of him he can not rightly answer the questions she poseth, and so she loveth him not and becometh the wife of Paganino.

ACROSS

- 1 Major Arcana member
- 5 Abounds
- 10 "Like that'll happen!"
- 14 Finish line
- 15 Fifth season *American Idol* judge
- 16 A cool gee
- 17 In a moment or two
- 18 Brazilian barbecue
- 19 Broadway's longest-running musical
- 20 Note from the boss
- 21 Stan Lee frequently has one
- 22 Charlotte on screen
- 23 Book just before Lamentations
- 25 Neighborhood perch
- 28 Cambodian cash
- 31 Many a Shakespearean adaptation
- 34 Half of D
- 37 Vacation jaunts
- 39 "The Gentleman Boss" president
- 40 Some votes
- 42 Turkish inn
- 44 Fiery types, it's said
- 45 A good card to have
- 47 Layer of skin
- 49 Summertime hrs.
- 50 Unnerving in a way
- 51 Awards for athletes
- 53 Even the slightest bit
- 56 The Electric Mayhem's drummer
- 60 "Cabaret" lyricist Fred
- 62 Sir John
- 65 Art from Arp, say
- 66 University's benefactor, often
- 68 Our state twenty-eight
- 69 Clickable pic
- 70 Only fair
- 71 #40 for the Lakers
- 72 Traffic cop
- 73 Canyon phenomenon
- 74 Urdh, Verdandi, and Skuld, for three
- 75 Lacking presence

DOWN

- 1 Carnac the Magnificent, e.g.
- 2 They're small on a spork
- 3 Bouquet
- 4 Painter of many bathers
- 5 Some apple recipients, traditionally
- 6 Cruciverbalists' favorite lioness
- 7 Jack of westerns
- 8 Assyrians' enemies

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What shade of blue are thy lover's eyes? (8)

What shade of red are thy lover's lips? (7)

What are thy lover's favorite flowers? (9)

What is thy lover's favorite pet? (10)

What is thy lover's favorite delicacy? (??)

- 9 One with his nose in the air
- 10 Flight mgrs.
- 11 What one must be when searching for answers word-search style...
- 12 Foremost Greek character
- 13 Detonator
- 24 Small British isle
- 26 Reaction to a spectacle
- 27 Birthstone for October
- 29 "Der Tod und das Mädchen", e.g.
- 30 Bender
- 32 Some vintage wheels
- 33 Secy., say
- 34 Cellular suffix
- 35 Wrap with waxy cloth

- 36 First Lady who wrote for Millie
- 38 Modern health scare
- 41 Bonked, in the Bible
- 43 Assembles a jury
- 46 Fairy tale irritant
- 48 Rand of literature
- 52 Clapboards, etc.
- 54 Frequent shop visitor
- 55 The plain in Spain
- 57 Port near Hong Kong
- 58 Dress up
- 59 It's carried at a tilt
- 60 Casual quality
- 61 Coalition

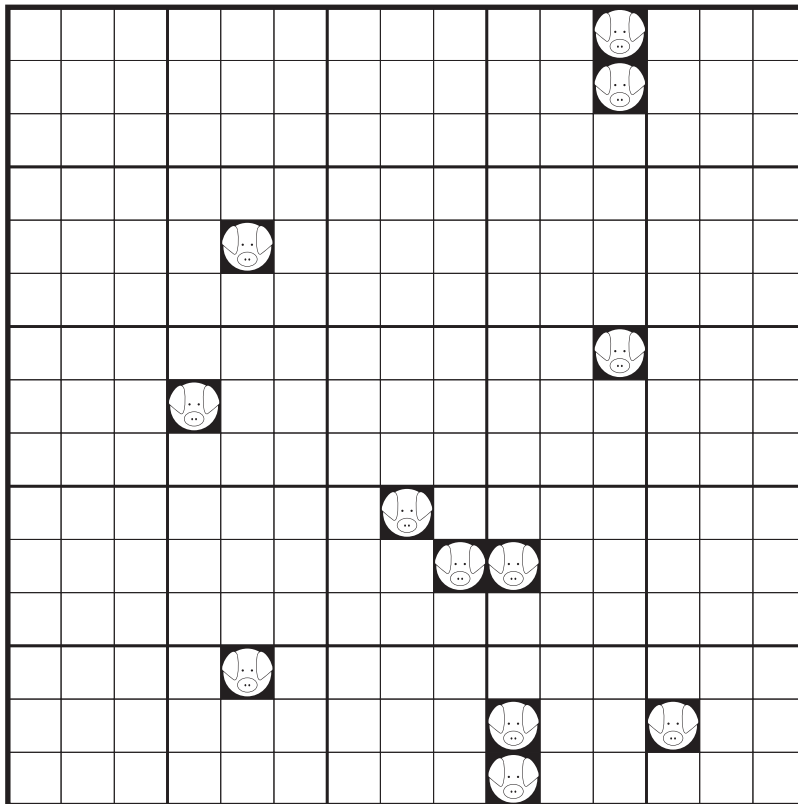
ELISSA'S PUZZLE

Elissa's puzzle was inspired by a tale in which the rogues Bruno and Buffalmacco, having stolen a pig from Calandrino, did make it appeareth that he himself hath had the pig, and they make him pay a blackmail, and administer a cure that causeth him much distress.

First, Decipher...

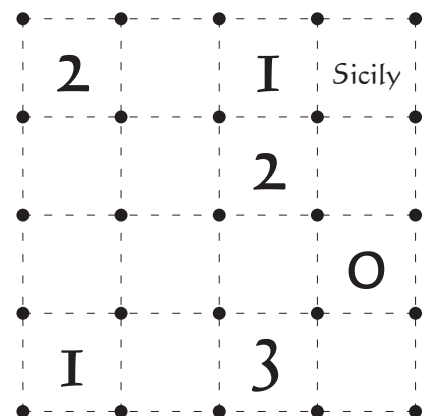
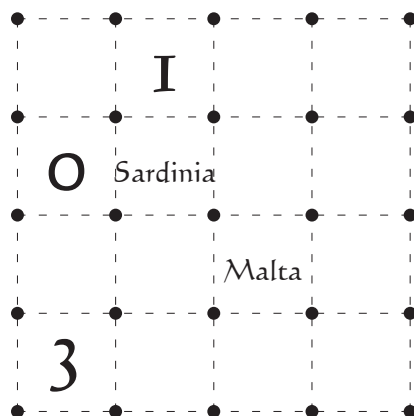
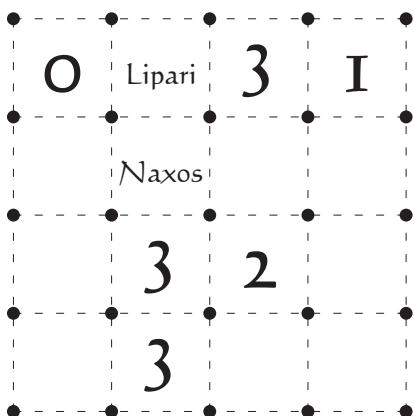
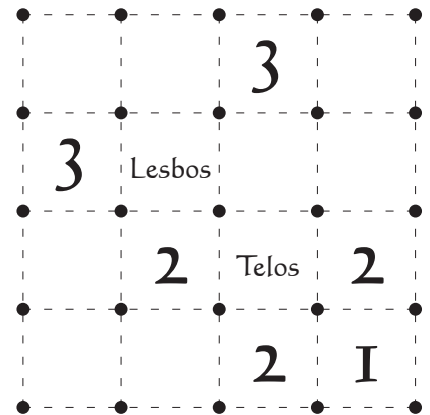
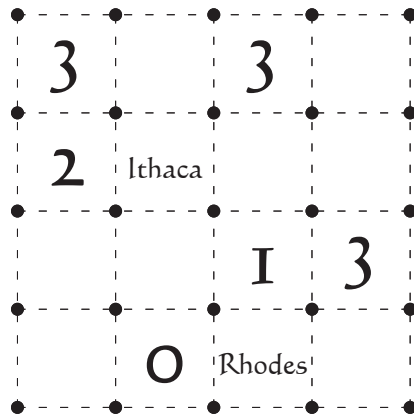
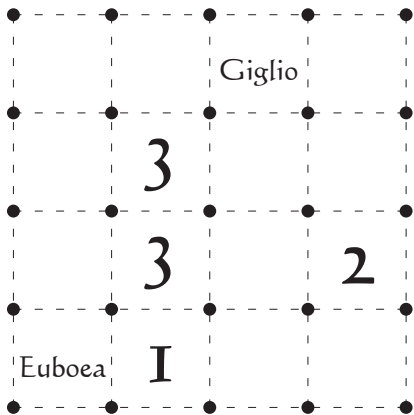
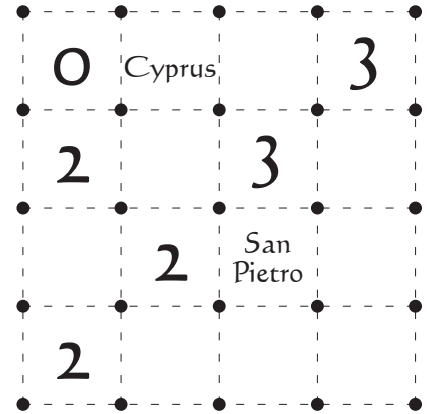
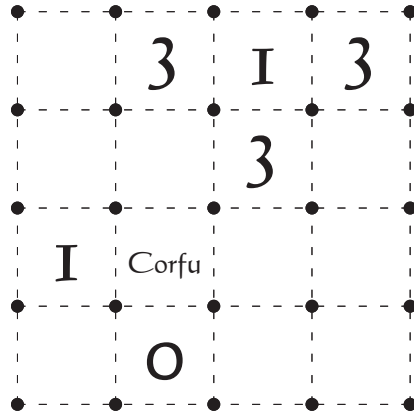
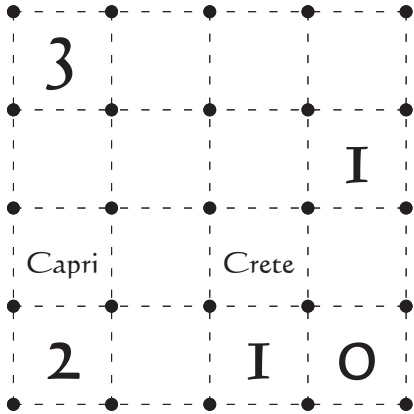
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ELISSA'S PUZZLE pg. 2



EMILIA'S PUZZLE

Emilia's puzzle was inspired by the tale of Landolfo Ruffolo who, grown poor, turneth corsair and endureth divers adventures, and drifteth from place to place on a chest after having been wrecked while traveling about the Mediterranean.



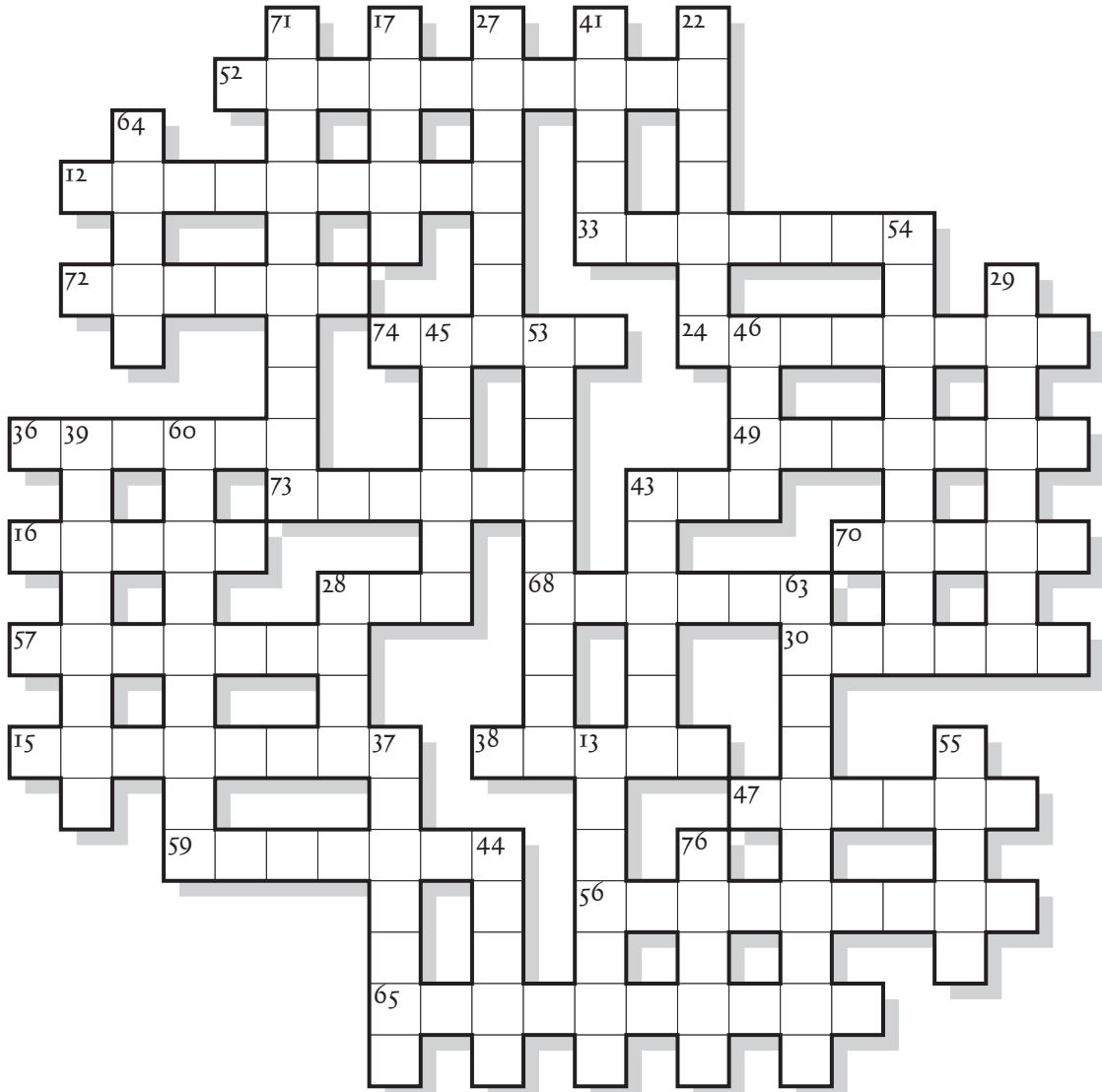
The wrecked 12 x 12 Slitherlink puzzle above may be reassembled by reordering the pieces without reflection or rotation.

FIAMETTA'S PUZZLE

Fiametta's puzzle was inspired by the tale of Ciappelletto, who dupeth a holy friar with a false confession and dieth, and though having been in his lifetime the worst of men, he is, after his death, venerated as the holiest of men.

ACROSS

- 1 Absolute
- 2 Fielder's feat, maybe
- 3 Fund-raisers
- 4 Showing self-restraint
- 5 Two of a kind
- 6 Adventure
- 7 Clear a table
- 8 Global division
- 9 Sprinkled
- 10 Squares
- 11 Prepare for a shock
- 12 Perks
- 13 Dwell
- 14 Labored
- 15 Officially approved
- 16 Souter colleague
- 17 Put up new weather-board, say
- 18 A fit of sickness
- 19 Curving overhead
- 20 One's native land
- 21 Greyhound, e.g.
- 22 Showy flower
- 23 Nasty chap
- 24 Bring to a halt
- 25 Using overnight shipping
- 26 Toddlers' companions
- 27 Like a caste system
- 28 Deposits of ore
- 29 Assault
- 30 A loose-fitting garment
- 31 Migraine site
- 32 Stiffening, in a way
- 33 Some Victoria's Secret items
- 34 Give a hand
- 35 Coral reef dweller
- 36 Outbuildings
- 37 Vocalize
- 38 Discards
- 39 Flashy lighting
- 40 Communicating
- 41 House of worship
- 42 Biological vessels
- 43 Take advantage of
- 44 Draft, as a blueprint



DOWN

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Inclination | 15 Extended one's employment | 28 Inertia |
| 2 Inclinations | 16 Bodily fluids, archaically | 29 Indulges |
| 3 Honored, like a bride and groom | 17 Envelope feature, often | 30 A cow, often |
| 4 Sandpiper's relative | 18 Employ a steno | 31 Tax deduction of a sort |
| 5 Prepared speech | 19 Rotten little brat | 32 Killing, so to speak |
| 6 Less than fresh | 20 Malady | 33 Unfluctuating |
| 7 Competent | 21 Outsider | 34 Let down |
| 8 Bound | 22 Hanging down | 35 Tremor or paralysis |
| 9 Guiding principle | 23 Cake decor | 36 Obama in 2012, e.g. |
| 10 Pie-eyed | 24 Obligatory | 37 In rehearsal |
| 11 Went out with | 25 Some military evacuations | 38 In a dead heat |
| 12 Many a Marvel employee | 26 Active in one's profession | 39 Jousts |
| 13 A certain soldier or lawman | 27 Crooked | 40 Shoot at from hiding |
| 14 Terminated one's employment | | 41 Buddy-buddy |
| | | 42 They may aid the mobility-impaired |

Filomena's Puzzle

Filomena's puzzle was inspired by the tale of a Horseman so enamoured of his Queen that he contriveth to lie with her by disguising himself as her husband, and in such a wise as that man he cometh to her bedchamber in darkest night and pleaseth her most royally.

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| I | T | T | E | B | A | W | R |
| I | H | H | B | E | I | A | N |
| V | O | S | U | L | K | G | D |
| U | L | A | T | T | E | O | E |
| O | E | R | S | A | M | S | O |
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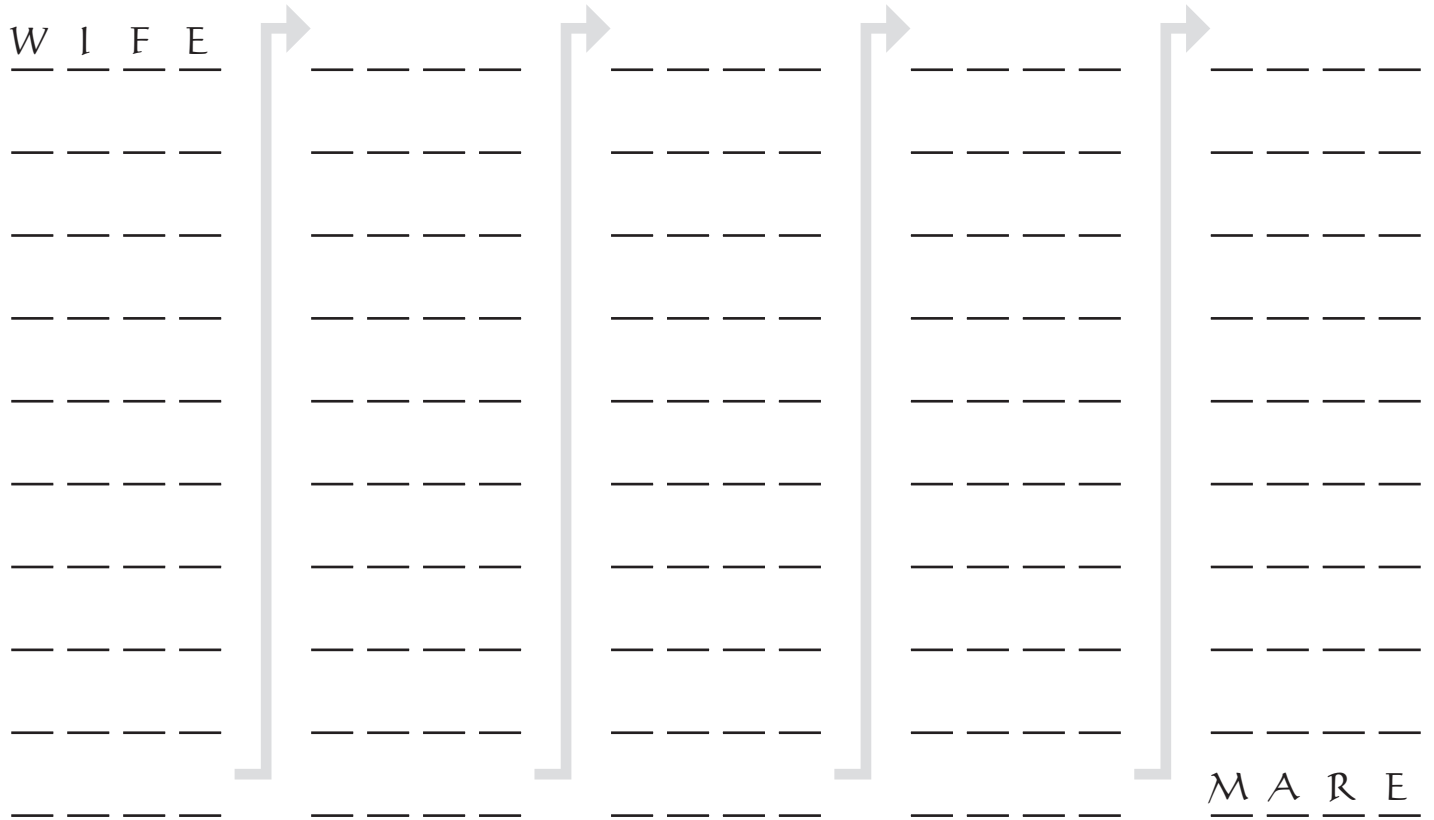
4 2 2 3 5

4 I 4 4 2 2 9

75 - 77 - 79 - 79 - 84 - 84

FILOSTRATO'S PUZZLE

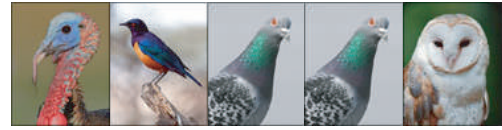
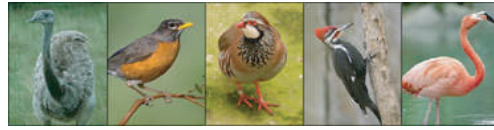
Filostrato's puzzle was inspired by the tale of Dom Gianni, who at Pietro's instance performeth a lengthy conjuration for the purpose of transforming the latter's wife into a mare; but whenas he lewdly cometh to thrust in the tail, Pietro interrupteth the conjuration and cries that he would not have her given a tail!



| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| A long sentence | Arthur, et al. | Cones' counterparts | Card game for three | Acquire some pounds, perhaps |
| Dirty look | Eleanor's successor | Covers some ground? | Evita's husband | Dysnomia is her moon (or daughter) |
| Dregs in a keg | It might be jumped | Hide | Fuel from a bog | Dumbo's are huge |
| Elevate | Minus | Pierre's old coins | Have on | Game delayer |
| MMXI, e.g. | Prunes | PR flacks control this | Post in the Senate | Goes astray |
| Navel-gazer's view | Run easily | San Antonio jock | Slowly remove from | Ms. Brockovich |
| Need for a telescope | Sexy dance locales | Turn bad | The first part of <i>été</i> | Transformation's final step |
| Transformation's first step | Trepidation | Variety show staple | Work pants fabric | Weight allowance, as for a container |

GABRIELLA'S PUZZLE

Gabriella's puzzle was inspired by the woeful tale of Federigo degli Alberighi, who wasteth his substance in pursuit of his mistress, though she keepeth him at some distance, till there is left him but one sole companion, his majestic falcon, which, having naught else, he sacrificeth for her love.



GABRIELLA'S PUZZLE pg. 2



Neifile's Puzzle

Neifile's puzzle was inspired by the tale of Mesetto of Lamporecchio, who feigneth himself a mute and becometh gardener to a convent of nuns, who, he being silent, all flocketh to lie with him, which worketh in time a miraculous cure.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| A PROOF OF PURCHASE • | | HEAVY SCENT IS GOING TO • |
| BRAWN • | | ONE'S PARENTS, COLLOQUIALLY • |
| BRING INTO COURT TO BE CHARGED • | | OOZED ALL OVER AGAIN • |
| CUTLERY • | | HAVING GUNK IN ONE'S PEEPERS • |
| DOCENT; ESCORT • | | WIGHT; WEAL • |
| GLOOMY OR SERIOUS • | | SLYLY SCHEMES • |
| IMITATION • | | TOTAL NUMBER OF BAD HABITS • |
| IN THE HOME OF • | | EITHER RON OR NANCY • |
| LIKE HIGH-GLOSS FURNITURE, SAY • | | TRIG AND PIPER'S SIB • |
| MEMBER OF THE PEERAGE • | | WISE GUY • |
| TAKE OFFENSE • | | SOMETHING TO LOUNGE UPON • |
| TANGO NEED • | | IN THE DIRECTION OF A DEARTH • |

PAMPINEA'S PUZZLE

Pampinea's puzzle was inspired by the sad tale of Lisabetta, whose murdered lover appeareth to her in a dream and showeth her the field wherein he is buried, whereupon she disinterreth his head and setteth it in a pot of basil, and making moan a great while thereafterward, she attaineth an unusual attachment to greens.

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| G | H | U | U | N | N | D | |
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| D | E | N | C | N | A | S | | |
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| E | X | O | T | D | E | N | E | S |
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| K | O | R | C | L | N | E | S | |
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| W | A | T | N | C | Y | | | |
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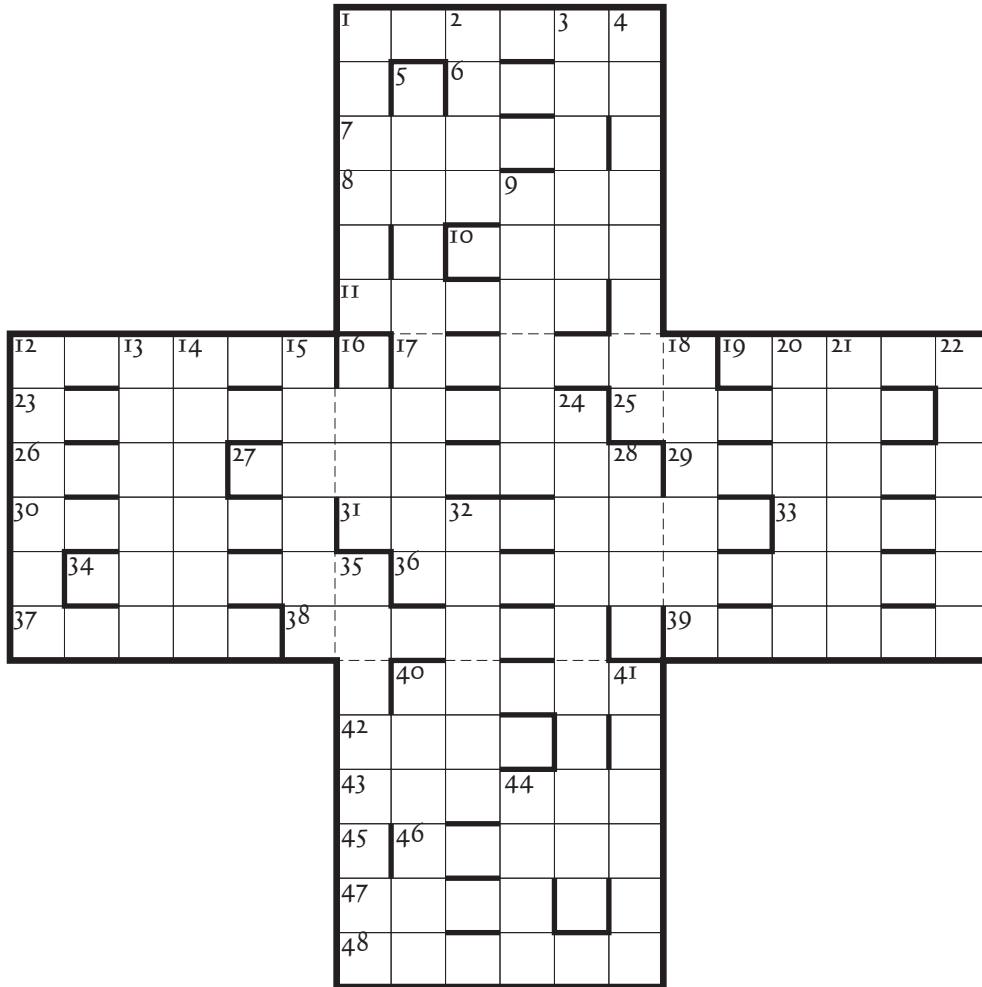
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PANFILO'S PUZZLE

Panfilo's puzzle was inspired by the tale of the monk Rustico, who, in order to bring the innocent Alibech into his fold, impresseth upon her that the highest act of the Christian is to put the Devil into Hell (if by "Devil" one meaneth his ██████*, and by "Hell" one meaneth another region) over and over and over and over.



ACROSS

- 1 Peevish government agent left the Bluegrass State (6)
- 6 Air *Roger Rabbit*, e.g. at full volume
- 7 *South Pacific's* "Nellie" covered in *Showbiz Times* review (5)
- 8 Poker tournament features many high points (6)
- 10 Circus performer to run out in the audience (4)
- 11 Some pretty pedestrian material is "Classified" (5)
- 12 True, not false! (6)
- 17 Architectural feature seen in '50s housing among outskirts of Tallahassee (6)
- 19 Leaders of Khan's horde mercilessly eradicate remaining Asian aborigines (5)
- 23 Nuts own eateries where food is cooked and consumed alfresco (11, 2 wds)

DOWN

- 1 Clawed beast losing head after initially craving battle (6)
- 2 Aleutian that turned towards the interior (4)
- 3 Pair of dealers and informant set up to be attacked violently (6)
- 4 The old judge, though lacking a single scruple, is an agreeable chap (8, *hyph*)
- 5 Seller of fiction's woe depicted in womanly novel (10, 2 wds)
- 9 Periscope component bound by iron strip (6)
- 12 Naked youth sitting in stunned silence for some time (6)
- 13 Pet, due to be fixed, got ready for a long drive (6, 2 wds)
- 14 Vanquished guard's first to vanish from squalid dungeon (6)
- 15 "Smut" writer's lewd expression going outside the bounds of humor (6)

* reference to the *membrum virile* obscured in deference to the sensitivities of the reader -- ed.

PANFILO'S PUZZLE pg. 2

ACROSS (CONT.)

- 25** Cat burglar perhaps returned for outfit with better equipment (6)
- 26** Repaired piece of skin inside the ear (4)
- 27** Hair came off freakish hybrid (8, variant)
- 29** Wilder son taking in adult-oriented horror, sci-fi, etc. (6)
- 30** Rodin pieces placed around rear of studio, protected from the elements (6)
- 31** Little zoo almost overwhelmed by staff's turnovers (8)
- 33** Eliminate odd roughened bits to make graceful molding (4)
- 34** Obnoxious jerk circling NYC landmark in ugly car (6)
- 36** Lone, gaga nun spread meaningless gibberish (11)
- 37** Cashier, a slippery fellow, holding onto ten pence (5)
- 38** Lantern nearly squashed flat, for one (6)
- 39** Was brave man ultimately, on the inside, blessed or cursed? (6)
- 40** Some lace and felt I tailored (5)
- 42** Olympic archer (kind of a loser) making a comeback (4)
- 43** Dangerous sort is horribly mean and crude on the surface (6)
- 46** Academic rejecting church with some energy (5)
- 47** Mötley Crüe's raw tone (4)
- 48** Trail around Eastern state meandered somewhat (6)

DOWN (CONT.)

- 16** Idle, possibly out of character, I consider essentials (4)
- 18** Map feature, for example, printed in advance (6)
- 20** Time to take on noble quality of the RAF (6)
- 21** Infamous captain's complaint about outermost bits of rigging (6)
- 22** Reportedly go back to fix a bad lawn (6)
- 24** Colt rarely bucks; it could run on a track (10, 2 wds)
- 28** First half of critical inspection is quite painstaking (4)
- 32** Oil, not unusually! (6)
- 35** Think back on late-night activity; it might be hot (8)
- 40** Menial worker put up company's artwork (6)
- 41** Editor finessed a supportive article (6, hyph)
- 44** Improperly maul former student (4)