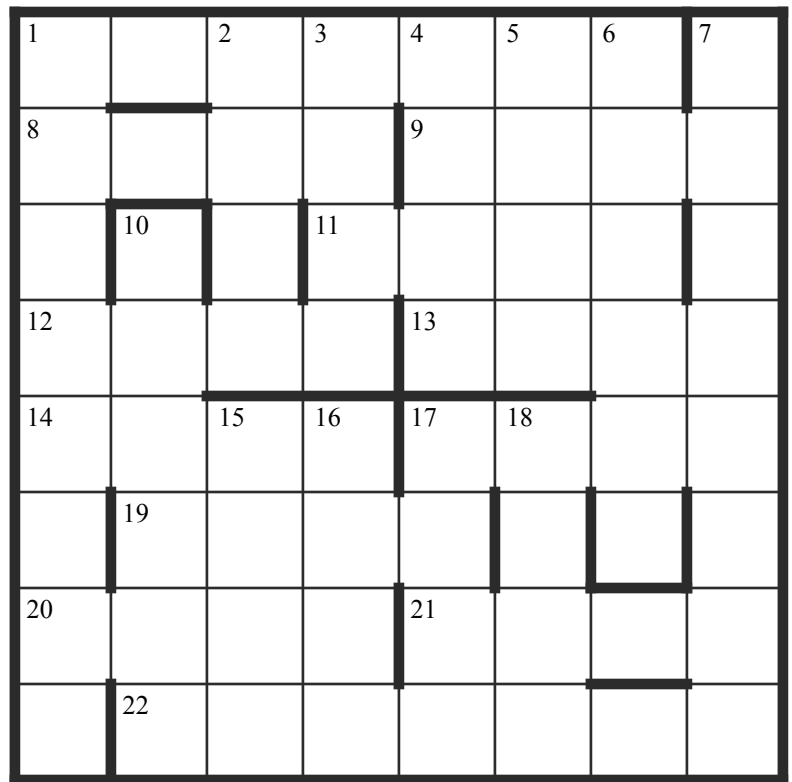


# Last, Minute

by Ucaoimhu

In some squares, one crossing entry will have a single letter and the other will have something else; put that last (minute) in the first. The result will show your opponent's pieces; determine where in the first column your single piece is so you can win in a single turn. The squares your piece occupies during this turn, in order, will say what all of this constitutes. In each clue whose answer contains *none* of the aforementioned squares, circle the first and last letter; all the first letters, and then all the last letters (both in clue order) will say who else will soon encounter an circumstance of this kind.



## ACROSS

1. Was unable to assign numbers to boxes 50 and 500
8. Endure longer than louts at dances
9. Flexible about town's yttrium-free beer
11. You grand, grand safe-cracker
12. Ran around while Troy blew up
13. Put lime mixture on surface of perennial flower
14. Train before one dash
17. Are gripping a hundred and ten square chains
19. Al's bots rebuilt parts of Russia
20. Smells peeled plum tomato
21. Announce the author is going to Borneo, e.g.
22. Vacuous, noxious bore claiming ð is like a rotated zee (*hyph.*)

## DOWN

1. Cringe when eating black, red, and yellow *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* fruit
2. Some put new word before "Reader"
3. Behold 3-ft. puzzle-maker Sam
4. Rocker Snider, quietly exhibiting profundity
5. Useless egg drink with extra egg (2 *wds.*)
6. Cats in back getting into rows
7. Expanded by amassing cooler island sand at the rear
10. T station marked in red (not grayish greenish yellow) is northbound
15. Defensive Rockets starters in Aberdeen, Mississippi (*abbr.*)
16. On rising, I see Methuselah's grandson
17. Some land agent's head is a-reeling
18. Nasty cups forming line between signs