

Starstruck

by Ucaimhu

In this puzzle, new faces get to meet the old. Specifically:

(1) In 25 of the clues, the word-play part yields a string of 1–5 extra letters (which are thus “extras from wordplay”). The answer for the clue will be entered normally, without extras, but the enumeration for the clue includes the extras. (Any tag like *abbr.* for any clue in this puzzle describes the answer itself.)

(2) For 25 of the clues, which work normally, one letter (the “index letter”) must be changed to a new letter (the “new face”) before the answer is entered in the grid. The resulting entry will always be a word (one of these is a surname, and one is chiefly Scottish).

(3) Each index letter from (2) also appears in a word from (1), immediately after the place where the wordplay adds extras. In the grid, in the square where the replacement for that index letter took place, put those extras in as one or two characters each. This will (mostly) construct a classic old device that may be of use to those who wish to solve all the puzzles in the tournament.

(4) To complete the construction from (3), read the new faces in order by index letter; this will indicate how your pencil should be employed next, in the middle of the part of the grid where all the non-index letters are.

(5) Finally, all the clues not included in (1) or (2) work normally and are entered normally. Read the first letter of each of these clues in clue order, and then the last letter of each of these clues in clue order, to get one final, appropriate instruction.

ACROSS

1. Fails to evict little coxcombs (4)
3. Radiation is good and bad (4)
7. College class where you reckon California's next to I-90 (7)
10. Narrator's personal need to pay for words said when lamenting (4, 2 wds.)
14. 50% of adults love barely-cold mist (9)
16. From the east, savour how Tennessee embraces an Indian leader (8)
18. One sort of blood starts to overinflate the young phlebotomist's ego (5, *hyph.*)
19. Is unable to run from yellow songbird with tail of scarlet (6)
20. Measure pieces of office furniture without excellent finishes (6)
21. Identifies semi-ugly engine noise (6)
23. Sprite's first half-wrapping Queen in

Roman insignia (4, *abbr.*)

24. Neon, surprisingly, was something previously unknown (5)
25. Shoo small feline (4)
26. Place for husband in adulterer's folder (8)
27. Spin done by Ms. Sumac's enthralling old sled dog (9)
30. Handyman always ignoring a headless body singing in church (9)
35. Well-pitted fruit don't start chaos and ado (7)
38. Red, white, and blue dress contains even a little bit of fuchsia (9)
40. Nail Mr. Pitt (4)
42. Mentioned small problem with used needles (4)
43. Yoko takes on Mr. Jennings in a game of chance (6)
45. Metrical foot in utterance by bluesman King? (5)
46. Scandinavian always turns north for excitement (4)
47. Café denizen is warmer when topless (5)
48. Ray catches real fish (5)
49. Throwing rocks at rat that's about 20 hundredweight (7)
50. Gershwin performing with pair from equatorial Mesopotamia (7)
51. Author Potter starts in the middle to make breakfast cereal (4)
52. Encouraging words about Leos (4)
53. Erotic echo of “yes” is interrupted by “nix” (6)

DOWN

1. Sailor at a plantation of the O'Haras (4)
2. Rod embraces radical worker (5)
4. Reportedly, dad had exploded (6)
5. Sleep-deprived king from Shakespeare stops by (6)

6. Manly Chinese leader besieges church (5)
7. ACLU's misspelled Santa's name (5)
8. Not crazy about an actress named Heche (6)
9. Magic spell primarily caused damage (5)
11. Head for knife and club after pistol is filled with goo (5)
12. Indicator of omission, when said thrice *per diem* backwards (4)
13. Huge tub containing sulfur (4)
15. Harmonious order, in brief, appears as sty's rearranged (4, *abbr.*)
17. Just destroyed Lyon (8)
22. Fluid that's orange, brown and green (4)
25. Sweetheart kisses a hundred thousand sports fans' idol (4)
27. Ordinary, timeless, lady's shoe (8)
28. Twice, a skyward-creeping plant had to head skyward (8)
29. Author Ferber superficially examined canned fish (6)
31. Serpent's maw finished person with business degree (7)
32. Anagram “Jeb” to a word that precedes “d'art” (5)
33. Vocally, an opera house like that shows off a voice above the contralto (5)
34. Endlessly hum ZZ Top in annoying show of enthusiasm (5)
36. Bismark loves to eat three times? Excellent (6)
37. Leia'd read about protecting an eagle nest (7)
38. Stereotypical French maid claims I've just started for a tropical isle (8)
39. Louisiana provided our rabbi with refuge (8)
41. Antiheroes emus do in, oddly, in a German car (9)
44. Awfully gory, licentious indulgence (4)

