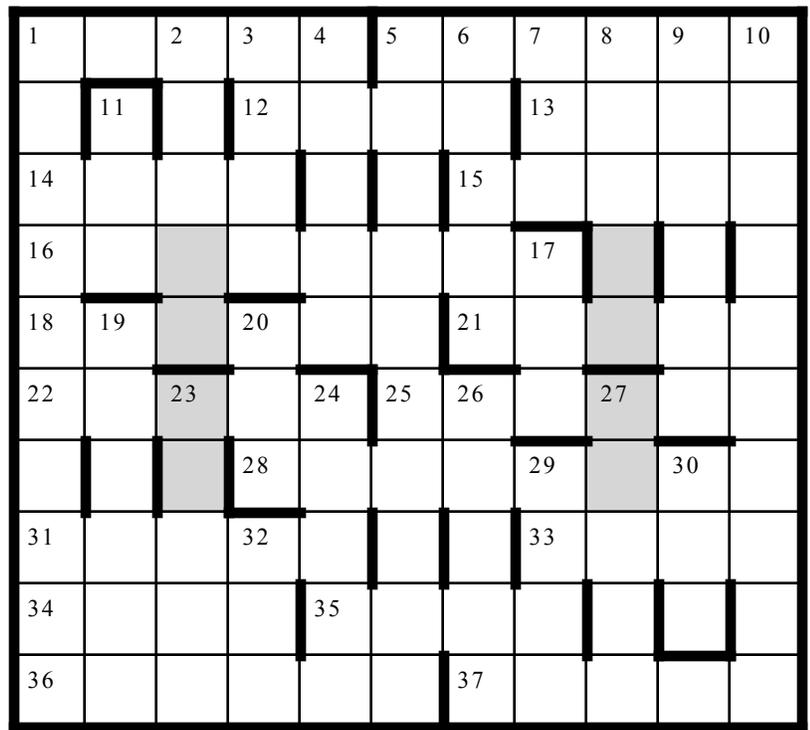


I've Got a Brand New Cryptic Room Escape . . .

by Ucaoimhu

To complete this room escape, you'll need to find a key. Some bars in the grid have embedded items that will help with this; these items have been left there (whole or in parts) by eight Down entries that are too long for their spaces. Before you can dig them out, however, you must strengthen the room structurally; each Across clue has one incorrect letter that must be fixed before solving, and the correct letters, and then the incorrect letters (with all diacritics omitted), both in clue order, will give one way to do this, which will also help in interpreting these items. (Alternatively, you could use the device in the shaded squares, which will also loudly identify the key.)



Once the key is found, you must perform a series of steps using it. Each of the thirteen right-sized Down entries has a clue whose wordplay yields a letter sequence with one extra letter. Order these entries left to right by column, and top to bottom in each column; then (a) if an extra letter is at the *end* of the letter sequence, it identifies a step, and (b) if not, its position within the sequence says how many clock ticks the step given just before it should take. (The first time interval is free time.) Finally, the letters from (b) in that same order will say how these steps should be performed.

ACROSS

1. In the Bible, gave life to request some lime (5)
5. Oddball and you and I are deer in coats (6)
12. Enter "Bagel burned by booze" (2 2)
13. Creature that gets nectar from glover never originally existed (4)
14. Bach singer Diamond's claim (4)
15. Morse code for O and 2, but not W or " (5)
16. Like most rice, old sulfur and silicate fibers (8)
18. Ari touching (huzzah!) spot on a cactus (6)
21. Playwright/politician Hazel's birthplace ousts leader and has Oscar replace a cad (5)
22. Pot's sound is left without purpose (5)
25. Ned's going after west Oklahoma City eateries (6)
28. Sprat pellets at outside of tin rotated like this (3-5)
31. Raised moat of aloe adjacent to fort (5)
33. Twelve quartered in Italy near last part of forest (4)
34. Antimony lovers you know to be Southeastern European (4)
35. Fir crushed oats (2 2)
36. Cañon-breaking acts involving tellurium mugs (6)
37. Lane surrounded by stretch of sea, after pole reversal, becomes the opposite? (5)

DOWN

1. Biblical animal or fish drinking in the manner of quartet from Amsterdam (2 wds.)
2. Bird with \$1000 eggs starts to bellow
3. Actress Moorehead's name appearing in *Times*
4. Piece of canvas or, alternatively, troupe's flag
5. It's active in aptest, shrewd folks, ultimately! (*hyph.*)
6. Moon with Ewoks, Frodo, and Neo endlessly spun
7. Bird lifted, say, Brother Kevin
8. Put a new label on retired, decrepit horse
9. Drives, chiefly, on changed routes!
10. Non-foes improved the old alien's standing (3 wds.)
11. Phrases I translated for Chinese barkers (*hyph.*)
17. Keeps saying a Dadaist's in love (2 wds.)
19. Small bone damaged belt feeding half of rifles
20. I don't believe that Winfrey flipped over Pierce
23. Neapolitan-style love of a Missouri ump
24. After guzzling tea, conquered Wagnerian deity
26. Raisin' tiny, partly Biblical question (3 wds.)
27. Flynn in *Captain Blood's Blunder* and *O Louisiana*
29. Topless deb captivates 75% of tony English school
30. Viragoes laugh at real tarts
32. Jeff disheartened AC/DC's security org. (*abbr.*)