Pacific Northwest  
as told to Ucaimh

In the peaceful Shire, in the northwest of Middle Earth, 26 clues are able to remain uninvolved in any gimmicky. Alas, things are different for you (and 26 other clues), young hobbit. Eight grid entries will mark the path of your journey (past the entity in the shaded rows). The first entry will be altered by receiving an item; it will then cross another entry, altering it the same way, and so on, until at last you reach an entry the item belongs in, without alteration. (One altered entry is N12.)

This item is also so corruptive that eight other clues, each for an entry crossing one of the “path” entries, show their former selves only in the definition part; the entry for each instead matches the cryptic part, which yields a very different answer. For each “path” entry and “corrupted” entry, find the position in each where they cross, and circle the letters in both those positions in both clues. In path order, the circled letters in the “path” clues will give one place where the item might safely go, but those in the “corrupted” clues will give a better place. To correctly solve ten more clues, you must take a single letter from each of five of them, and move it across to one of the other five; these five letters, north to south, will say how you might reach the second location.

(“Wait! There are six more Across clues!” you cry. Yes, and each of these has an extra word you must remove before solving. But don’t worry about those words until you finish solving this puzzle, and read the rotated square in the corner.)

**ACROSS**

2. 300-page text from the Cold War (abbr.)

6. One’s whips employed by heartless editor more than once!

12. God in Egypt or points west, making a loud noise

13. Aurally evaluate singer Bonnie

15. Thus Thor uncovered part of Manhattan crypt

16. Actress Arthur, at times, in Poe and Ginsberg, for example (2 wds.)

18. Ec dysiast’s posterior area, half-seen to avoid shocking anyone

19. Minute, ruddy TV horse (2 wds., abbr.)

20. Celebrity possessing right physique

21. In Gail’s steed coat inside of her fireplace

24. “Lop” is wrong word to precede “facto”

27. Munched sole with folks born in the summer

29. Part of dress that’s sewn last drops

32. Scot’s root vegetable in Shawnee epic

31. Road in the Argentine counts, say

33. Not to stay next to a large target

35. Leave one-thousand-bathroom residence

37. Yokum’s finale in New York disheartened posh individual of mature years

38. Charge on property Mr. Sedaka flipped

40. Huge part of Cyrano de Bergerac upset Roxane’s last descendant

43. Dance with a couple of Israelis as Native Americans change

45. Average mane seen on Cheers

48. Resume rotating at four

50. Lass with yours truly on an errand

51. Useful juxtaposition of Kentucky neighbors

52. Hawke in Gattaca and Latin Lei-Lover

53. Lunatic lied at work

54. Polish Senator Franken’s low-cut shoe

55. I deny vacuous little romantic interlude

**DOWN**

1. Minorcan’s uncle stops melted aluminum using logic

2. Gull one former ghost on late night TV

3. Machines used to transport wines

4. Bit of carrying equipment for a fisherman!

5. I will abandon a Trojan royal carriage

7. Ike aged cheese and thyme-free baloney

8. State fife-playing/tennis champ Graf

9. Degenerate at top of attendance roster

10. With that guy Sy’s Caprice

11. Pinkish shad moved upwards

14. Fuss over old Dorothy (hph.)

15. Like flowing hair styles halfway concealing that magic item you’re carrying

17. See if you can utter cliché expression of delight (2 wds.)

22. A Jackson portrait enlarged fiftyfold by leaders of sensible, sensible people

23. Fear going topless is a mistake

25. Male couple from Oregon quietly returned for school dance

26. Lather lo prepared is warmer (2 wds.)

[N13]

28. Part of steering apparatus for wing

32. Entrances physicians, but not court

34. Six also playing stringed instruments

36. Meter readers sang ’em badly [N13]

39. Thou dost put together audio module

41. North Dakotan, at first, Tivos nude poet

42. Jocose TA’s lines are quick

43. Consume port endlessly

44. Greek characters start to proffer greetings

46. Protector of workers in turboshift (abbr.)

47. Large lion’s tail obstructs M2

49. Having many ales after ditching with archaeologist from Raiders of the Lost Ark

**DO NOT READ UNTIL DONE:**

Change one letter in each of six words so they are defined (in order) by the extra words they are defined (in order) by the extra words so they are defined (in order) by the extra words so they are defined (in order) by the extra words so they are defined (in order) by the extra words so they are defined (in order).