

Wonderland as told to Ucaoinmhu

Wonderland isn't just a fantasy realm reimagined by Tim Burton as a place for a lot of dynastic in-fighting; it's also a "T" (subway) stop in Boston, where we two have recently taken up residence.

In this grid, twelve clue answers do indeed do battle, conflicting with one or more crossing entries; where that happens, just enter both the conflicting characters (some of which are unusual for a crossword) in the square where they cross. But note that fights here are kind of weird; when the grid is filled, the shaded columns will state what odd thing a Wonderlander does when fighting.

Four more clues have no straight definition part. Two yield two figures (not us) who might be interested in this kind of chaotic fighting; the other two name a place far from Wonderland. Forty remaining clues will help you get there:

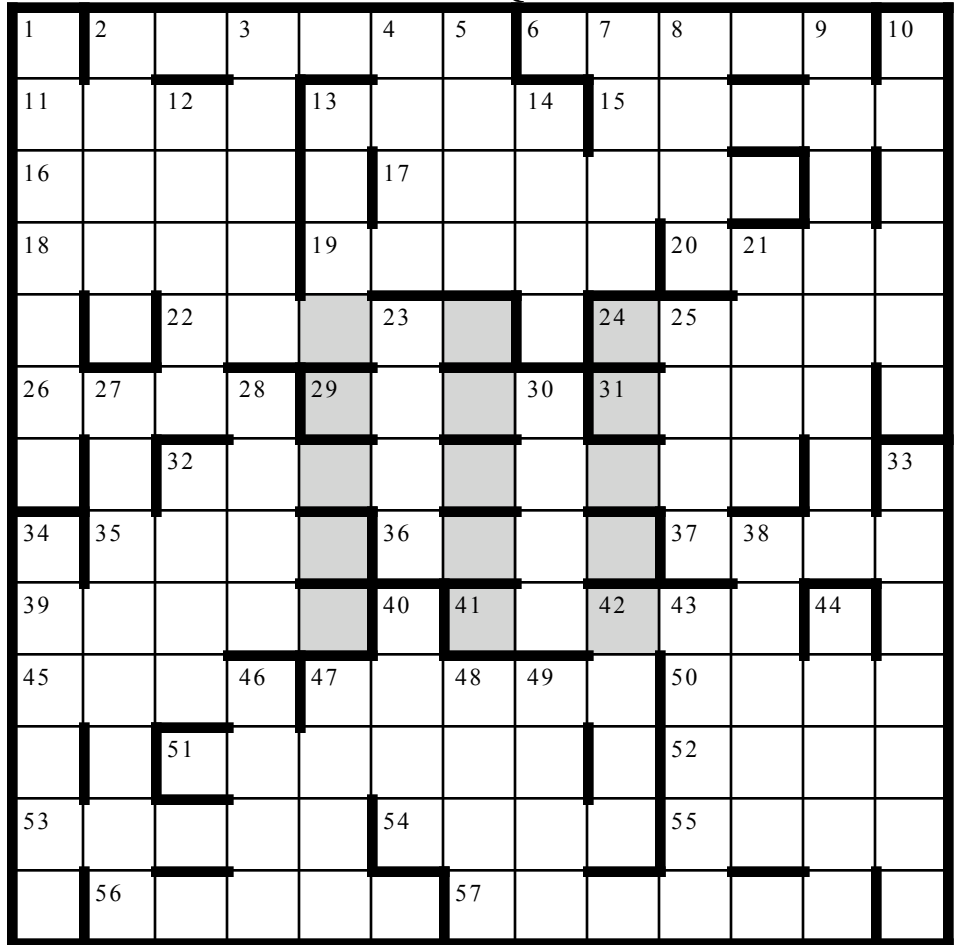
- (a) In half those clues, the result from the cryptic part shows one letter in the wrong position; this wrong position is the front or the back. These letters spell out (interspersed) where we now live.
- (b) In half of the remaining clues, the cryptic part yields an extra letter; these spell *both* our names.
- (c) The initial letters of the ten remaining clues, which work normally, tell more precisely where to go (a location that is on Boston T maps, and should also be very familiar); the grid will show, with our homes marked as landmarks, how to get there from Wonderland.

("Wait! There are five 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. Metal club held by colonel (6)
6. Rock band heard expert singer Gorme? Yes, in Mexico (5)
11. Roughly held by her, soon (2 2)
13. Ring belonging to grand ninny (4)
15. Passage is 1/3 leakproof (5)
16. Ceases bribes (4)
17. Sextet involved in "space S/M" knew about a unit of rocket speed (6, *abbr.*)
18. Pastel-colored Cure freaks (4)
19. Axes beheaded flowers, producing angry reactions (5)
20. Be impolite to star eating bass (4)
22. Colorless stranger w/ bin (2 3, *abbr.*)
24. Horde in a confused condition (5)
26. Random lint from many lands (4, *abbr.*)
29. Have to pay the Italian/French peeper (4)
31. Part of a film about the mean Cuban (4)
32. Fat cats, after the start, will have nine things to obsess about (9)
35. Behold each medicinal plant (4)
36. Quiet admiration for playwright (4)
37. Location of bottomless beer mug (4)
39. Audio from third of 24 gaming systems in ornamental cases (5)

DO NOT READ THE ROTATED SQUARE AT THE BOTTOM OF



THE PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED SOLVING THE PUZZLE

41. A kid initially rigs lighting wrong? (5)
45. Prudish A-line is an attention-getter (4)
47. Dick gutted wooden camera company (5)
50. South Spanish and Italian grain? Yes (4)
51. Returning, once again experience being more villainous (6)
52. Song that's sung by Callas without bouncy meter (4)
53. Poet's above hollow dale with shrink (5)
54. We will claim Florida took a plane (4)
55. Name ending for Clark (an alien)! (4)
56. 504.5-year split (5)
57. Exists, and eats lettuce primarily (6)

DOWN

1. Odorous fluid destroyed ore silo (4 3)
2. Singer Jim's giant reptiles (5)
3. Cry over German and petty officer (5)
4. Vocally restrained (4)
5. Vexed most cats (4)
7. Pop singer Elliot's group (4)
8. Rests and is deprived of victory (4)
9. Ickily, led into hit with a "Misty" bit (8)
10. Discard ton of arguments about ocean floor (6)
12. Odd bits to strain top spar on a ship (5)
13. E.g., trousers Crow pulled up (4)
14. Don't keep stiff spots on the radio (4)
21. Denials from quartet of Minnesotans (4)
23. Almost rent meadows (4)
25. Layers of gloss, top to bottom (4)
27. Cowboy poet's under English doctor (8)

28. In '55, five circle Ukrainian city (4)
30. Northbound bird deceiving one (4)
32. Cause of achiness is said to be duct (4)
33. Losses from Roman banquet (7)
34. The superficially astute radical's gun (6)
38. Go back into small cube to acclimate (5)
40. Predator with fur, chiefly! (4)
42. Slant was so key, especially at first (4)
43. OK about what's south of Vancouver Island: a Japanese city (5)
44. Actress Bergman has no cap to wear (5)
46. One stupid hiked calf-length skirt (4)
47. East of Pinsk, I've redistributed Ukrainian capital (4)
48. Restaurant in state just south of PA inventor Whitney (4)
49. Is not afraid to be penniless (4)

DON'T READ UNTIL DONE:

Change one letter in each of five (not necessarily consecutive) Down words so they are defined (in order) by the extra words. Then put the location from (c) into the last two shaded rows, then do some joinery, to get an image that will lead you to a document findable in this hotel. With the document oriented properly, put its leftmost word (rotated like this) on top of its rightmost word (read cryptically) to see what fantasy ruler reigns supreme.