

3. Centuple Threat

by Ucaoimhu

(Recommendation: Do this puzzle only after solving Puzzles 1 and 2.)

All the problem-solving and navigational skills you have been practicing in the previous two puzzles should help in dealing with the rather frightening item that is the subject of this one. In this puzzle:

(1) Every “Texas-style clue” actually consists of either two or three cryptic clues, one after the other; enter their answers in the Across row or Down column indicated, one after the other, in same order. (Individual answers include six two-word phrases and one hyphenated term.)

(2) Once all the answers are entered, most black squares will be touching (vertically or horizontally) two squares with the same letter; where this happens, fill that letter into the circle within the black square. (Where it does not, leave the circle blank for now.) Once this is done, the letters in the circles will state (in a way that requires correlating the grids from Puzzles 1 and 2, plus a real-life map) where the frightening item is.

(3) The black squares in the grid form six rows and six columns; where the *m*th such row has a blank circle in the *n*th such column, take the *n*th letter of *each* of the three individual clues in the *m*th three-part Texas-style clue. These three-letter sequences, read in clue order, will say what the frightening item is.

(4) Blacken the circles that have letters in them, then fill the location from (2) into the blank circles, left to right (not top to bottom). Another, longer proper name can be

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
	○		○		○		○		○		○	
8												
	○		○		○		○		○		○	
9												
	○		○		○		○		○		○	
10												
	○		○		○		○		○		○	
11												
	○		○		○		○		○		○	
12												
	○		○		○		○		○		○	
13												

made using only these letters, which briefly names another place where the item from (3) might reasonably be found. Where the *m*th letter of this proper name appears in the *n*th column of black squares, take the *n*th letter of *each* of the two individual clues in the *m*th two-part Texas-style clue. These two-letter sequences, read in clue order, will describe both the item from (3) and this puzzle set. (And the letters in the circles, top to bottom, will describe someone like you who can successfully handle such.)

ACROSS, TEXAS-STYLE

1. Heading west, cooks check on the car I randomly probe with one hand
8. Power held by top-notch ex-Acme blokes seizing one carriage (for example, from a Belgian) after twisting elbow
9. Altered canoe in sea adjusts to rays crazy Stan used ultimately to injure someone tiresome
10. Almost half of Stooges, getting ragged in court, claimed a neutron-like particle possessed filmmaker Howard
11. Dodge, left in Missouri initially, travels east so hecklers making former ET host John bonkers can hide from Nancy
12. More grating to the ears of Rosie, in alien Mars Huntress’s foot shackles
13. Cups and saucers et al. collectively tempt Troy to inquire and Norman to sit in empty brass receptacles

DOWN, TEXAS-STYLE

1. Upsettingly cocaine-free cats that remain are enthusiastic about soprano singer Cole holding court
2. Being unwrapped, boxes you and Daisy make excite Nico, Kali’s consort, and a car renter from the south
3. Booze swallowed by ant cow — say, Scotch — between the third and fifth ceremony is stale
4. A bit of time around experts warped one, as billions of years muted a poet on the rise
5. Red deer greeting new, outwardly dubious aristocrat assents to having 100 Hassidic-style tresses
6. Counterpart of Zenith’s drain-breaking kitchen beverage maker that’s beginning to make soda (from feed, mostly)
7. Cryptically note the pay grade for a general actor named Sean Connery finally showing actress Marshall nine inspiring goddesses’ topless exploits