

2. ME by Ucaimhu

This one's about me, and a trip I took earlier across three regions. Of the Across or Down answers here, 28 are "too long"; for each, put (a) one letter on a thin grid line (so all those lines form one linked path with four turns), (b) two letters in one square (so no two such squares are in the same row or column), or (c) some letter(s) outside the grid. Then split the grid into three rectangular regions A, B, and C so that (a), (b), and (c) only occur *in*, *in*, and *next to* them, respectively.

The Out answers go outside the grid, crossing each other and the (c) letters so no Out answer has two "unchecked" letters in a row; the Gray answer goes in the shaded squares. When the grid is complete, add all external letters to region C; you will then have a stylized map, with the Gray answer saying how a certain water area is indicated. As for land: In all non-Gray clues *except* those 28 above, the letter sequence the wordplay gives has an extra letter at the start and end. To the left of the grid, enter each end letter next to its corresponding start letter, under the wedge indicating the way the entry goes. All of the end letters will name (in partly abbreviated form) the land areas in A, B, and C; just the ones will list four verbs, saying what you've seen the grid lines through letters, overfilled squares, and accumulated external letters do.

My trip can now be extended. Read the (a) letters along their path, the (b) bigrams west to east, and four Out letters heading due east to a point on the shore (thus tracing my old route, roughly) to get a phrase saying where to go from that point; the Gray answer will say how this last leg of the trip starts. Travel *on this page* as that phrase says, and look to the east to see where this last leg gets you.

	▶	▼		▶	▼
A			N		
B			O		
C			P		
D			Q		
E			R		
F			S		
G			T		
H			U		
I			V		
J			W		
K			X		
L			Y		
M			Z		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14				15	16			
17				18				19			
20			21		22			23			
						24	25		26	27	
28	29	30		31	32			33			
34				35				36			
37					38				39		
40									41		

ACROSS (▶)

- The discount retailer that now owns Sears brings in cup-painter Chagall
- Sheep appearing in the German plays
- Retro Norse god seizing Glinda's land and preppy clothing company
- Taboo, naked smut shown in reverse with one audio track
- Roman poet mistakenly cut egg tube
- Zinc's coating my bad henhouse
- Hire Songbird™
- Male sib hugs Abel's mom all the time
- Five filling veld with pixieishness
- One who applies color to rotating card
- Actor Harrison claims odd FX confused the star of *Sanford and Son* (2 wds.)
- Woodwind instrument left by aunt in Spanish wine-growing city
- "E" is an unusual ingredient in absinthe
- Reaction to being hit in the stomach when blocking that female dancer
- African country had to obstruct FCC
- Misspelled word before "Tag" in a Hasbro game where you zap people in blazers
- Don't reveal Chicago lair
- Request from a lover of mold he misunderstood (2 wds.)
- First pair of grocers carrying cereal primarily choose oats, say
- Herb's age, as stated on the radio
- This hollow Village People song makes Mike Nesmith's lead-in harmonize
- Podium occupied by *V* actress Geena

DOWN (▼)

- Parent/author Emile's corn oil brand
- Teachers having zero airtight arguments
- Raised beast's plate
- Like an athletic shirt or undershirt possessed by a secret agent
- Zines Greer edited would be exciting ones
- Sell halved wraps with Cuban quickbread
- Thus, old slugger Cobb is begrimed

- Doctor Wald has to operate a car
- A boy Edward burdened with cargo
- Before triple ending of *Clue*, Scarlet can upset Mr. Boddy, say
- Itchy aces redesigned boats that go over frozen water (2 wds.) [N13]
- Back of a page unloved relocation specialists attached to interior of john
- I wait, May, in the place cited above
- Spoiled one's, er, first months in Peru
- The hosts around expert decathlete Jim
- Soya, if cooked, is capital in Bulgaria
- Telly assumes he'd originally misstated where one renews a license (2 wds., abbr.)
- Quiet core of laconic Wyoming becomes flamboyant
- Behold inside of brown claw
- A Low German novelist named Horatio
- Temperature often written "32" here in the US by rushed, gyrating drug agent

OUT (direction indicated in enumeration)
Curse on penetrating Greek character's oil company (5▼)

Hints Charlie left in . . . what, in Mexico? Yes, in Mexico (5▼)

Jim, before curtailed pull backwards, uses brief bursts of force (8▶)

Many awful flus occurring in the center of Okla. after singer Elliott heads north (8▼)

Native's toe, gripped by actor Knotts (4▶)

Nude witch holding antlers and sharp parts of plants (6▶)

Philadelphia college sweethearts embraced by Steph will replace Ross's circle (2. 6'1▼)

Sy, heading west without a passport, perhaps walks furtively (6▶)

Trek, host of a game show and outwardly xenophobic science fiction show (4▶)

Turn marsupial, bovine beast 180°, following 70 hugs and kisses (6▼)

Very, very, very big X inscribed in a couple of exposed, unclad axles (4, abbr.▶)

GRAY: Bit of confirmation strange, sage aces do (sob!) decrypt! (5 wds.)