



3. VT by Ucaoimhu (Solve only after solving Puzzles 1 & 2.)

Welcome to Vermont, home of dragons, elves, and flying carpets! (Note: The author has never been to Vermont.) The carpets have the following component parts:

(A) Control surfaces. 14 of the lines between squares are nonfixed, and must be “flipped” (from thin to thick or vice versa) to add or subtract one square at the start or end of the grid space for each of 14 answers. These flipped lines all occur on the boundaries of two carpets in the grid, thus showing you where those two are.

(B) Navigational equipment. 14 answers must be altered before entry by deleting one or two letters (including at least one interior letter); altered entries include a phrase and a hyphenated term. Each deleted letter gives the direction (on the compass in Puzzle 1) and distance (if it’s the nth letter, go distance n) for a “rook’s move”; for each such entry, begin at its last square, move as indicated by its deleted letter(s), and draw a straight line from the last square to your final position. The results will state what you can do with these flying carpets.

(C) Cargo hold. 14 clues each contain an extraneous sequence of one or more words, which must be deleted before solving, and which defines the altered entry for one answer from (B). The central *non-space character* from each such sequence, all ordered as per the corresponding clues from (B), will give two terms that refer to sections of the grids for Puzzles 2 and 1, respectively; the halves

ACROSS

1. Carve left end of roast, plus round chunk of carpaccio
5. Female dropping water disrupted a duel involving vassals and serfs
9. Charlie cutting one person using his teeth
13. Word used emphatically after “yes” or “no” is “ere,” oddly
15. Four Oakland ballplayers backing up our Canadian rescuer bear (e.g.) quintuplets
16. Central 75% of dust-, woad-, and asphalt-covered rte. to UMaine (2 wds., abbr.)
17. Goes to court to obtain thirty primarily fatty substances
18. Bury him after the first period between events
19. Heart of semipeaceable secondary character from Seth Rogen’s *Gas Producer* [NI2]
21. No Ute anagrammed a dialect term for “towards the exterior, via” [NI3+]
24. Bud clinging to the posterior of her wee, prickly plant
26. Again get frail sheep to feed libertine nincompoop’s face [NI3]
28. Clothes get worn out after a time
31. Make shorter paper-fastening device
33. Layer envelopes astatine in a too-tidy way
34. Many a scavenger has to conceal desire
35. Once more, bizarre lug nuts are, uh, large [NI2]
37. Touch base after rotating dog mats, essentially (2 wds.)
39. Singer Chris is initially assailing Alaska
40. Is putting text at the end of a letter containing nonsense about subatomic particles

of (B)’s result (also respectively) will let you determine more specifically what these sections are, and which carpet each corresponds to. Match each section against its carpet to see which corresponding squares have the same letter in both; circle those letters in the two carpets.

(D) Tail end. Column by column, the circled letters will say what to write (in the style (B)’s result uses) in the carpets. In the same order, divide the circled letters into pairs; for each pair, “flip” what is between them (if a line connects them, erase it, and if there is no line, add one). The result will say how many miles these fabled carpets can take you. Also, in each of the six remaining clues, find that number (differently represented), and read the letters on either side; in clue order, these letter pairs will say what other “flying” item can handle numbers like that.

41. Errand doers behold chic cut of meat
42. Provide a guarantee of victory that hurts a four-star general/admiral’s pay grade
43. Jet gets closer to cavalier young person
44. Penetrate soft-walled shelters having hard parts

DOWN

2. Sonny’s ex, drinking a small drink with another drink
3. Athenian porch tile misspelled a prefix for “motif”
4. Fronts of vessels and power lines
6. Cover with water that’s frozen and internally dense, currently [NI3]
7. Christian who designs dirk mostly inscribed with second bit of *Pater Noster*
8. Septet stuck in chicle gum endorse variant term for “beanlike plant” [NI3]
10. Always-vacuous toxiphobe turned the head of Texan actor Rupert
11. Heard someone providing hints for someone in line

12. T-character in the futhark incorporating I, I, and also 3
14. Before victory, doctor a contract (2 wds.)
15. One caught by half-stubbed ballplayer Rusty
20. In France, eye quite hale Leo I naughtily
22. Words from a liar, lastly, about beer
23. Nu, Ike got Dotty stretching (2 wds.)
25. Part of Japan is in merry UK? Yup
27. Large belly area encompassed by belt
28. Nonamateurs spiral aimlessly for months
29. Preeminent director Ang erected trap to catch long fish [NI3]
30. Desire wacky T-shirt
32. Decapitated insects and snakes become roused again
33. A model flipped over a fabulist
36. Broadway show produced by outspoken one who’s related to bunnies
37. Console invalidated vote for slithy Carrollian creature
38. Frequently at 120° angle west of Oliver North (2 wds.)