

Under Those Lights by Ucaoimhu

It is once again a time for decorating, gift-giving, and other entertaining seasonal activities. In this puzzle, seven Down clues are normal, but each of the other ten (1) has no definition part, just wordplay, and (2) gives an answer that's one letter short, which must be "decorated" before being put into the grid. This decoration will be done (in an appropriate manner) by ten Across entries, which thus represent two individuals known for this kind of decoration. Each of the *other* ten Across clues has one incorrect character, to be corrected before solving; the incorrect characters, in clue order, will say what these "decorators" are.

As for gift-giving: Five of the "decorating" Across clues have received an extra letter, and five have given up one (undo these alterations before solving). Each set of five letters, ordered by the alphabetical order of the first letters of the corresponding clues, will say what the two decorators received/gave. In addition:

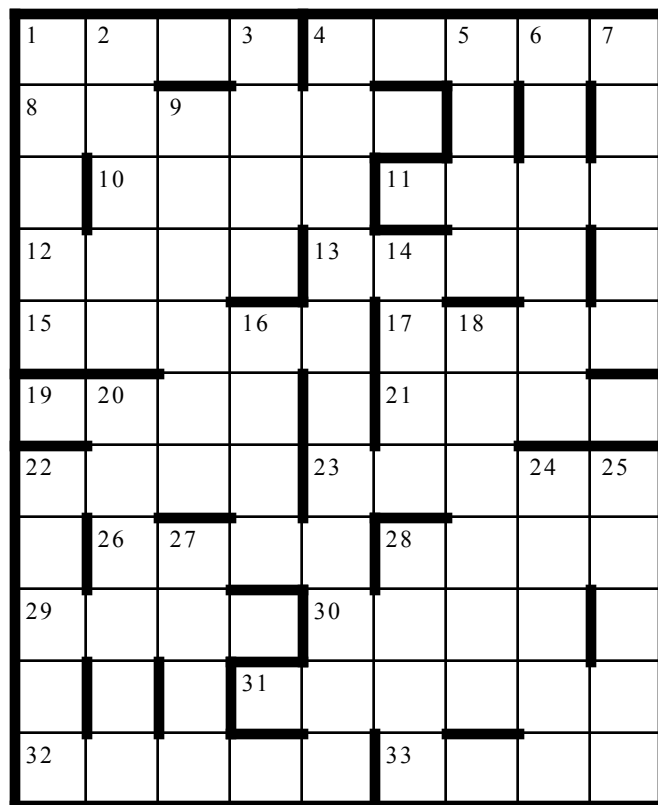
(a) The *correct* letters from the other ten Across clues will give other (more explanatory) terms for who these decorators are;

(b) All received/given letters, ordered by the alphabetical order of the "decorative" letters in the grid, will indicate some text on this page, which describes some text in each normal Down clue, which indicates some text in the grid, giving the exotic milieu where this is all set; and

(c) All letters not in the two underlined sets of ordering indicators can be anagrammed to say what form of "gift-giving" would enable the rest of us to enter this milieu.

ACROSS

1. Loud ping-filled place is an eyesore? (4)
4. Jeff still may rub Judy's tomes — an often daring approach (5)
8. Vacuous guys greeting Mike and returning to Cy (6)
10. Live with vacuous stoner and Fozzie, say (4)
11. Are licentiously tasting eyes on weird Lego (4)
12. Clever Mr. Wonka omits the third or fourth para (4)
13. Former student is great once Norm has eft (4)
15. The 28th character in the Torah to be unhappy with that mane (5)
17. Zora, on the East Side to get a mat, was stunning (4)
19. Kevin, with ado, finally presents Yves's concept (4)
21. Print five instances of Shriners' eastern-style title of respect (4, *var.*)
22. Xmas song doesn't contain "oy," Mr. Reiner (4)
23. Unstinting Spaniard's bull ages him, at first (5, *var.*)
26. First-person singular inflection of "A&E exhibiting joy about cat" (4)



28. Quietly, Mr. Gore rebonds after second strike (4)
29. Word before "facto" or "op" is "Hosea" (4)
30. Odd items from bin clad in dark glyphs (4)
31. Derive humor from game after changing a ploy (4 2)
32. Bread in a shoe store around RI is spooky (5)
33. Steel-like animals in the Bible excited Nike (4)

DOWN

1. Hogs grabbing Henry's spectacles
2. Perverse claim that one was elsewhere, spitting out large T-bone
3. Goldwater eschews Republicans
4. Fake bottom of that piece of furniture is not worth remembering
5. One gentile's revolutionary exercise system
6. Read disjointedly, to get just one of letters
7. Yeti and lizard, when not full, eat English produce
9. Articles from countries on both sides of France
14. A comment from a stereotypical librarian
16. Tormé, who wrote "The Christmas Song," top to bottom
18. Said, "That's funny, Ms. Meriwether"
20. Not quite finishing small computer program
22. Dickinson, who wrote poems mostly backwards
24. Middle of wordy commercial describing inert gas
25. Put a little bit of nutmeg into pastry
27. Elam's leader stops Ur's wacky machine operator
28. Idaho's right above Alaska