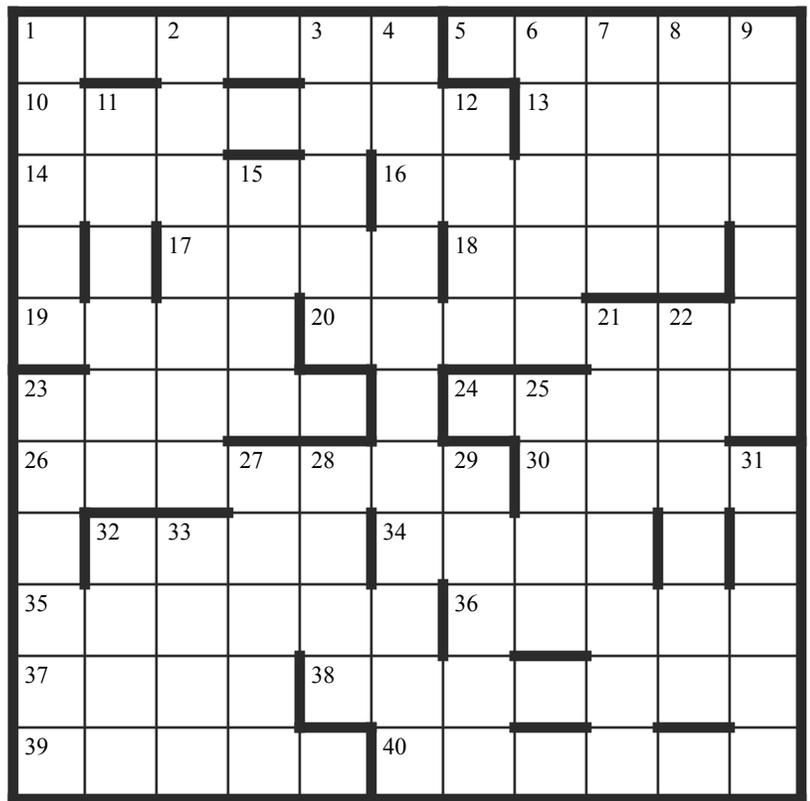


E and F by Ucaimhu

A murder mystery dinner — just like the movie *Clue!* Many people know that had three endings (A, B, and C); fewer know that the original script contained one other ending (D) which was later cut. Now you get to experience two more endings, E and F! Specifically:

(1) Both these endings diverge from endings A–D at the point where Wadsworth, Yvette, and the six guests pair up to search the house’s four levels. In endings E and F, they all find inconsistencies eliminating them as suspects; correspondingly, the grid has eight Across entries with a particular letter (the same in all cases) contradicting a crossing letter in a Down entry. Also, the *true* culprit leaves obvious clues; correspondingly, the grid has three Down entries with a particular *word* (the same in all cases) in one square, contradicting a crossing letter in an Across entry.

(2) Each clue for an entry not among the 22 from (1) must have one letter deleted before solving. In clue order, the letters from the Across clues will name the true culprit! In two Across clues, though, *which* letter gets deleted is ambiguous; if in both clues you delete the alphabetically earlier letter you’ll get the culprit of ending E, and if you delete the other letter (and insert one apostrophe where needed) you’ll get the culprit of ending F. Meanwhile, the deleted letters from the Down clues will describe what the true culprit is for *all* or *most* of the movie, for ending E or F respectively.



Finally, if you want to know which of E and F is the *real* additional ending, note the eleven crossing letters in the grid that contradict the “particular” letter or word from (1); if you first read these column by column, and then read them again row by row, you will find out!

ACROSS

1. Religious belief is inscribed in gap-filling latch
5. Thanks about half a dozen hacks
10. Parisian summer’s packed with 91 thrills
13. LARP’s genre is Russian, right? Yeah, Russian
14. It’s some spice, on the inside and outside!
16. Penultimately, Mao & Ed fill in Stan Bloom’s part
17. Stomach-turningly serene forum of marine life
18. Acme Gym fits inside chopper
19. *Star Wars* smuggler and vocal tailor produce a mood
20. Cartoonist Avery can start to generate phone activity
23. *Sones* of the lower class quietly replaced *bels*
24. Random small platter
26. Gee, sorry — I’m disgusted when speaking of sextets
30. Prigs out on each hollow tumulus
32. Coat witness called “a long dress”
34. At first, Zeno offs areally notorious lemma’s namesake
35. Nitrogen ion inside of Jane’s hydrocarbon compound
36. Indicate ring among 96 teaspoons
37. Donor’s remarkable smell
38. $C_2O_4^{2-}$ salt derived from bovine with wings
39. Quintet of samurai next to the West Ohio city
40. Creeps ultimately dismiss place with many a sputter

DOWN

1. More than one cloth-joiner looks when you yank
2. Castilian is under 1,101,150 cold pointy things
3. Have difficulty buying up bronze one crafts (2 *wds.*)
4. REM seizes Mr. Fantastic’s hypnotists
6. Ado preceding a superficially pleasant change
7. Stop English lady
8. Tagged watch act’s audio
9. Bullock, keeping \$1000 in a silicon container (2 *wds.*)
11. Part of a shoe that is pinching the toe of Dean Solomon
12. Try a bit of Shasta Cola
15. Bot pounds upsettingly untidy individual
21. I fled Ivan of Persia
22. Some gnat antically moving the way a basis does
23. Remarkable person that’s wacky on hemp
25. Landscape tinters initially blunder and paint nude
27. Company that presents games to Onassis
28. Pet on *The Flintstones* is dosin’ wrong
29. Pail capped with cobalt resin
31. Places spectacles on the bear
32. Mentioned cult’s style
33. Cleric beheaded in a bite