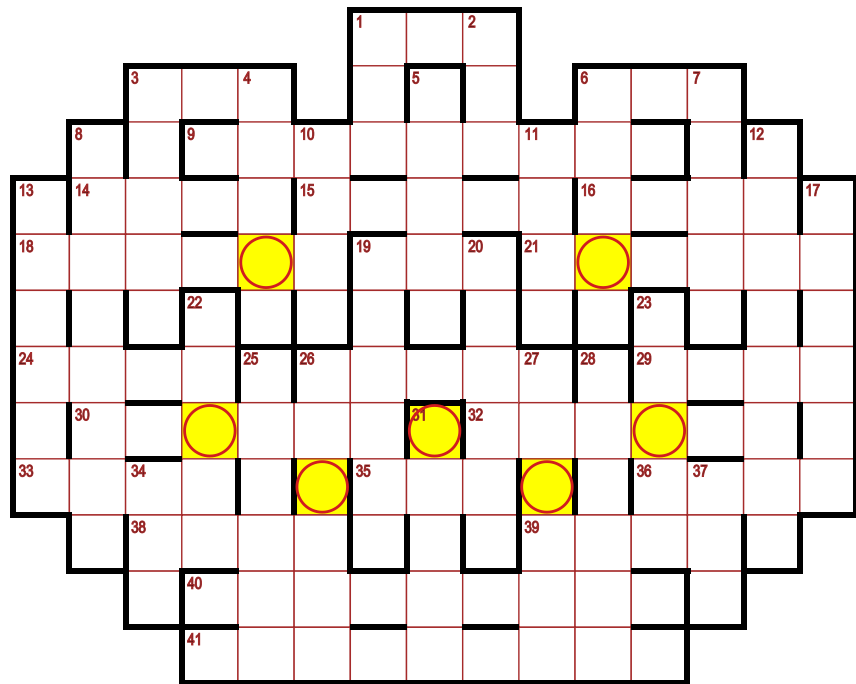


Cryptic 2023-10: Ghosted

Darren Miller

Oh no, you've been ghosted! How does that make you feel? (10)

Several words need to be modified to fit in the grid. The grid entries may no longer be words once they have been modified.



Across:

- 1 Butter and caramel's essence (3)
- 3 Removing rafters from breakfast room recklessly creates an explosion (6)
- 6 Forbid taking bee eggs for a type of tarantula (6)
- 9 What an umpire might say upset brat somehow (6'1,2)
- 14 Barrel opener for distribution with liquor (4)
- 15 Take on too much and moved out of bounds before rook captures bishop (8)
- 16 At first, George is very eager to donate (4)
- 18 See a farce where daughter becomes leader of Britain (4,2)
- 19 Husband's frightened sound's first to finish (3)
- 21 Originally emotional and teary, worried at a restaurant (6)
- 24 Some smug lyrics are very unattractive (4)
- 26 Took off coat of blue badger in return (5)
- 29 Arab leader? I run after half of them (4)
- 30 Mom aboard cruise, coming back for monstrous women (6)
- 32 Start to dive into pool, emerge at last with a toy dog (6)
- 33 Odd book of lies with a name: True or False (7)
- 35 Old boats at sea? We don't talk about such things (6)
- 36 German snake produces a shocked reaction (4)
- 38 Component of Bangkok railway pods (4)
- 39 Counterfeit belt logo? Wasted \$50, unfortunately (7)
- 40 Dispatches start coming back around noon, carrying back instant messages (9)
- 41 Motor vehicle almost came in contact with an oval frame (9)

Down:

- 1 To make anew or to be made anew (6)
- 2 Beth and Romeo disturbed an old-timer (6)
- 3 What comes back around for followers of Frank Sinatra: their mother (5)
- 4 Massachusetts man gutted boa snake (5)
- 5 Girl deleted from ebook page about a game for children (8)
- 6 Worries of insects overwhelming a short boot (8)
- 7 Story with no love? Absurd! (5)
- 8 Mushy long goodbyes avoided. Why? They're a waste of time (11)
- 10 What Santa brings to young son (4)
- 11 Pervert's wreck is uneven and capsizing (4)
- 12 Most amusing mistake in troubled times (8)
- 13 A crazy cult involves suspicion of authority and concrete (6)
- 17 Revolutionary group led by Robert buries ring as a snare for the unwary (9)
- 19 Cockney says he's joking and throws up (6)
- 20 Pass by Alps wandering within the borders of Europe (6)
- 22 Heard that guy reserve a collection of songs (8)
- 23 Not the first promise for extension (5)
- 25 Raiders lose heart, scurrying for a mountain range (6)
- 26 What's behind snob with a zebra's skin at a restricted marketplace? (6)
- 27 Alternately, an honest piece is related to the mind (6)
- 28 Spooner says dish chopper is where they take money (9)
- 31 Loop from backmasking sample of Vandross album (5)
- 34 Internet provider has circuit installed in aluminum (3)
- 37 Anger doesn't begin for a long time (3)