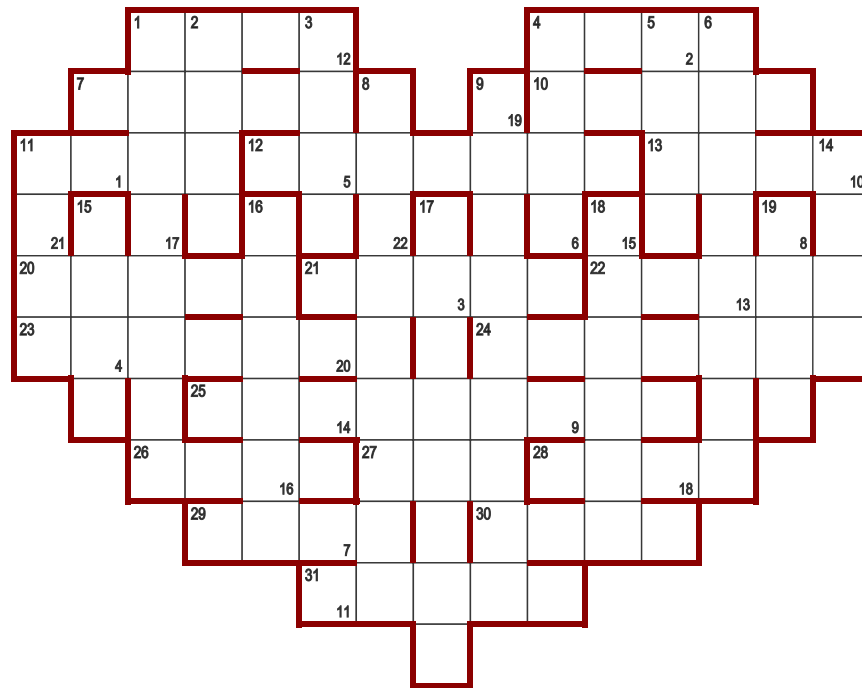


Cryptic 2024-02: Love at Heart

Darren Miller

A cryptic Valentine from a secret admirer. Who could it be? (4)



Across:

- * 1 Adventurer's first raft almost overturned in a remote area (4)
- 4 Remove cap from conduit to get a container (4)
- 7 Messy old rag at a Greek marketplace (5)
- * 10 Boy, I left gladiator with a scary beast (5)
- * 11 Cold cut to devour (4)
- * 12 Store she managed discounts husband's electronics (7)
- * 13 Every other actor sat for a price (4)
- * 20 Man with razor loses ring stirring cocoa with topping of marshmallow (5)
- * 21 I come in for finale of sale in bargains of old telephone components (5)
- * 22 Deer die when heads are removed - it's scary (5)
- * 23 Wept about books being penned (7)
- * 24 Train a new employee over meals (7)
- * 25 Comes before ex-priests going astray (3-6)
- 26 South California man makes a deceptive offer (4)
- 27 Penniless essentially have nothing (3)
- * 28 Place to work on deerskin in Erin's absence (4)
- * 29 Scheme to get a place to rest (4)
- * 30 Seven doesn't start like six? (4)
- 31 Off-topic remark from leading actor sharing information designed to entertain, primarily (5)

Down:

- 1 Could be head-hunters with everyone ultimately in cages, sadly (8)
- 2 Bird with head of falcon and another bird (4)
- 3 Darn and fix up fringes of skirt with a run (4)
- * 4 Inflated opinions held by office gossips (4)
- 5 Carve yeti's heart with first pair of chisels (4)
- 6 Ground rock for a car accessory (4,4)
- * 8 Leases restricting party for those living there (9)
- 9 We all look evenly over deli, backed-up but running smoothly (4-5)
- 11 Cousin to 10A lurks in microcomputers (4)
- 14 Bound to South Beach, perhaps, exchanging skirts (4)
- 15 Fantastic cure is kind of drab (4)
- 16 Dark black rum mixed with a bit of lemon (6)
- 17 Bishop and eleven Romans invading Utica recklessly to get, like, aluminum ore (8)
- 18 Spooner claims toy bear for creditor (6)
- 19 Corporation is unyielding (4)