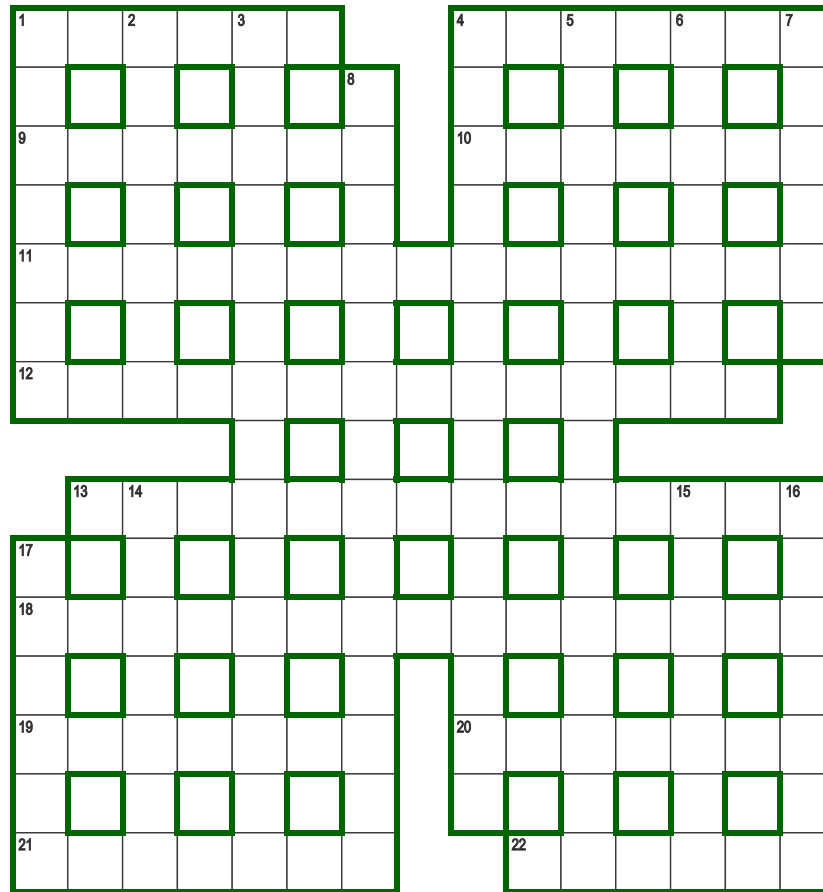


Cryptic 2024-03

Darren Miller



Across:

- 1 Need good man to follow after second daughter departs (6)
- 4 Leading financier and you invested in fancy pearl creating a sudden surge (5-2)
- 9 Without parking, I can't hop around ancient city (7)
- 10 Mysterious towns rejecting outsiders near borders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan (7)
- 11 Mix pure metal into magical elixir for an impossible result? (9,6)
- 12 Allowing to go to dodgy all-night diners (14)
- 13 Embarrassment of half of shampoos at retro cafe, oddly dense with sulfur (14)
- 18 Angry queen rams losers with irritability (15)
- 19 Annoying tops removed from Dirk's home (7)
- 20 Lift up bottom of cape and levitate without it (7)
- 21 Extremely severe sun is reflected, creating holes in the head (7)
- 22 Fighting with odd action dudes (2,4)

Down:

- 1 Stuck in Trinidad on vacation with paper bananas (7)
- 2 Student workers misplaced astringent missing tag (7)
- 3 Morris drank some bubbly in a magic show (5,3,7)
- 4 Strangely fearful to get ring and see sweetheart with good luck charm (4-4,6)
- 5 Praise for headless nail currently on shelf with chess pieces and bone (15)
- 6 Deterioration or being engulfed by sound from below (7)
- 7 Great longing for excerpt of Chopin in G-Minor (6)
- 8 Reflection of bully covering bald patch with empty hat, stealing egg from nasty Scottish lake (14)
- 14 Listen to Spooner's convertible chicken (7)
- 15 Funny red male or green stone (7)
- 16 Nuns could be performing rites aboard ship (7)
- 17 Prepares for castle surrendering to pawn, squire swaps sides (6)