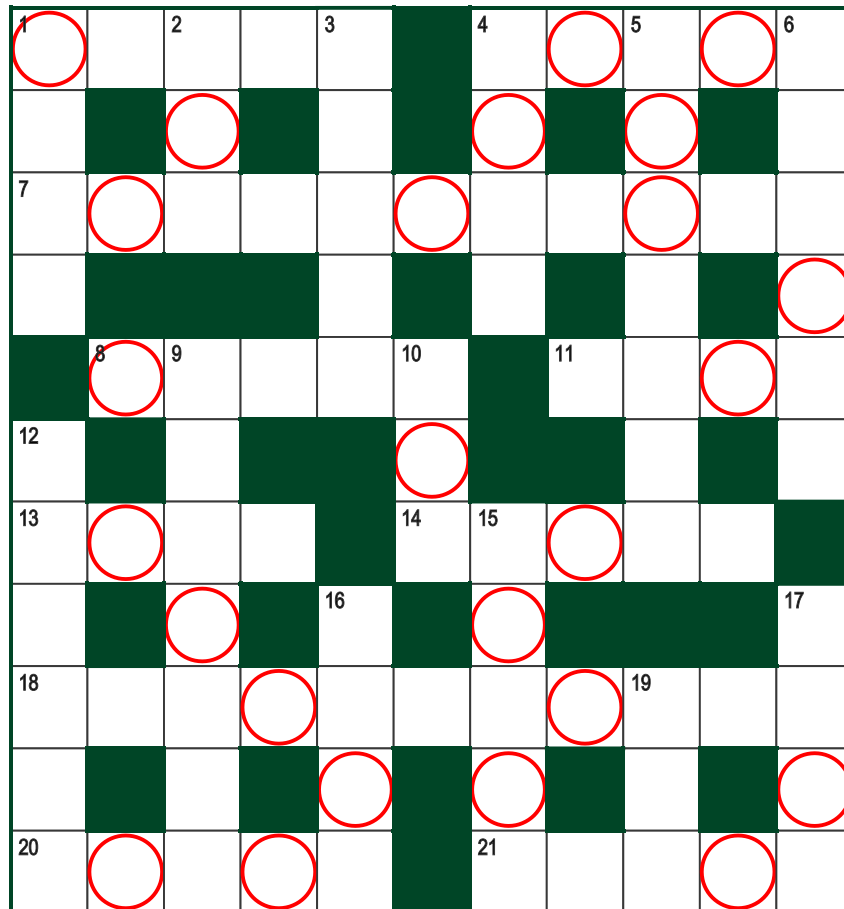


Cryptic 2024-12

Darren Miller

A cryptic present left for you under the tree. Who could it be from? (4)



Across:

- 1 In part, intense guesswork leads to smooth transition (5)
- 4 Rhymes according to Spooner most regularly (5)
- 7 Taking fake sick days in large mining complex (11)
- 8 Silver: high class and fashionable once more (5)
- 11 Evidence of dishonest allegations to administration's leaders (4)
- 13 Solemnly promise unlimited favor and introduction in Washington (4)
- 14 Run from pair of leopards hiding in garden spot (5)
- 18 Manipulated man in cult of failure (11)
- 20 Somehow roped into card game (5)
- 21 Wasted last bit of money Rod brought back (5)

Down:

- 1 Sad men lacking tails? Me too (4)
- 2 Slice of pineapple-glazed upside-down cake (3)
- 3 You getting involved in naked tennis produces weariness (5)
- 4 Overheard neighbor getting a place by the sea (4)
- 5 Rising frost swallowed nation (7)
- 6 Indicator aligns poorly (6)
- 9 Searched the Internet to look into divinity (7)
- 10 Overturned wastebasket to find a bill (3)
- 12 Pervert snuggles Miss Universe's tops in rehearsal (4-2)
- 15 Legal restriction changes from \$1,000 to \$100 (5)
- 16 French author to embrace on top of ottoman (4)
- 17 Diplomat gives up nothing, causing jealousy (4)
- 19 Somewhat simple troublemaker (3)