

COOKIES

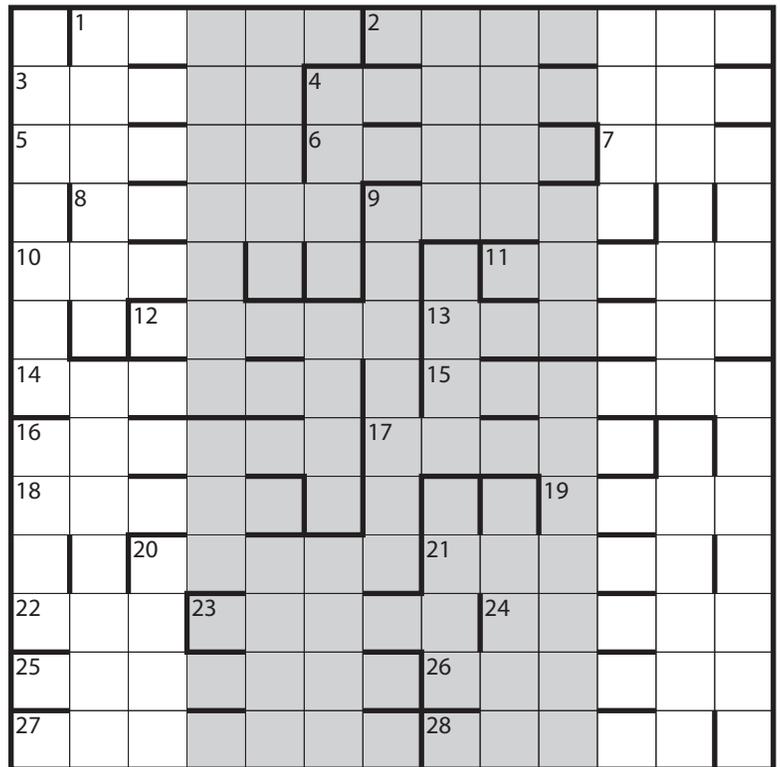
by Mark Halpin

In *Anyone Can Whistle*, it's difficult to tell who's sane and who's a cookie.

In this puzzle, answers to Across clues are to be entered normally in the grid. The wordplay in a number of irrational clues, however, yields an extra letter in addition to the answer word. Those extra letters, in clue order, spell out a clearly fallacious bit of logic, proof of a disordered mind.

Down clues are arranged alphabetically by their answers, which must be located in the grid. Sadly, a number of grid entries (though legitimate words or phrases) are affected by the illogical belief mentioned above. All of those answers should be confined, for their own good, in the Cookie Jar, the shaded central region of the grid.

Some of my favorite cookies may additionally be found traversing the completed puzzle.



COOKIE JAR

ACROSS

- 1 Artist's final piece of work : *Broken Halo* (5)
- 2 What cats might be uplifted by: rats chiefly getting into scrapes (7)
- 3 Japanese-American child that is wrong to head west (5)
- 4 Laborer is ordered to get some stove components (8)
- 5 A thousand degenerates left a bunch of trouble (5)
- 6 Mobile, perhaps lacking energy, is neither here nor there (5)
- 7 Demotions putting out odd characters for a good while (3)
- 8 Eastern capital Susana's avoiding to some extent (5)
- 9 Pompous remarks: they're not uncommon in breweries (5)
- 10 Part of a play that's crucial to practice (4, 2 wds)
- 11 Bankroll at first kept in cash register for security (5, *hyph*)
- 12 Cathy broke very pricey vessel (5)
- 13 Conventions held by sausage-sellers (6)
- 14 Artiste becoming demented and melancholy (6)
- 15 Theater district is sort of on trial (6)
- 16 One of those who pay dues and at heart grimace and glower? (6)
- 17 Simba snarled "Indeed I'll make a mighty Lion King", e.g. (5)
- 18 Actor Davis's old sides hurt (5)
- 19 Check out taxi's foremost reduced fare (4)
- 20 Oddball, writing backward, finally finishes essays (5)
- 21 The author (Byron) toyed with some subtle humor (5)
- 22 Essentially add to problematic pesticide (3, *abbr*)
- 23 Directors en masse grouse, maybe, about a couple of oafs (5)
- 24 Entertain Seamus riotously (5)
- 25 Like Marie Antoinette, say: not entirely eccentric, just losing head (7)
- 26 Discuss key for a small hole (6)
- 27 Ann reworked nifty cotton fabric (7)
- 28 Grant really improved arenas (5)

DOWN

- Morality tale, after the beginning, is quite effective
 Small island swallowed up in the sound
 Jessica's angry primarily after gaining a pound up front
 Nearby shopping includes a fast-food restaurant
 Outlaw casing part of the Capitol; not a good sign (2 wds)
 Wait patiently for the VP, but only up to a point
 Shade of white is "ebon"? That's preposterous
 Bedroom community's publicity notice lacking little
 University hotshot picked up hair product
 Certain parties losing time making payments
 Golfer misplaced tee, a little green one
 Back half of huge European river is a lot of rushing water
 That woman's a goddess
 ... shrine tumbling over but originally an important woman (2 wds)
 Isn't "exotic insect" just a tick?
 Silly shtick is hardly fine art
 Large investors may buy something initially for an arm and a leg
 Prototype's evidence of being outdated
 Goose eggs used in rearing goslings
 Gets in boats at sea
 Playing lute, sot exits
 Surprisingly sad, I rue remnants of the past
 Give Rhode Island high marks for coastal features
 WWII-era submachine gun catches when aimed incorrectly
 What's paid at a bar for some diet soda