

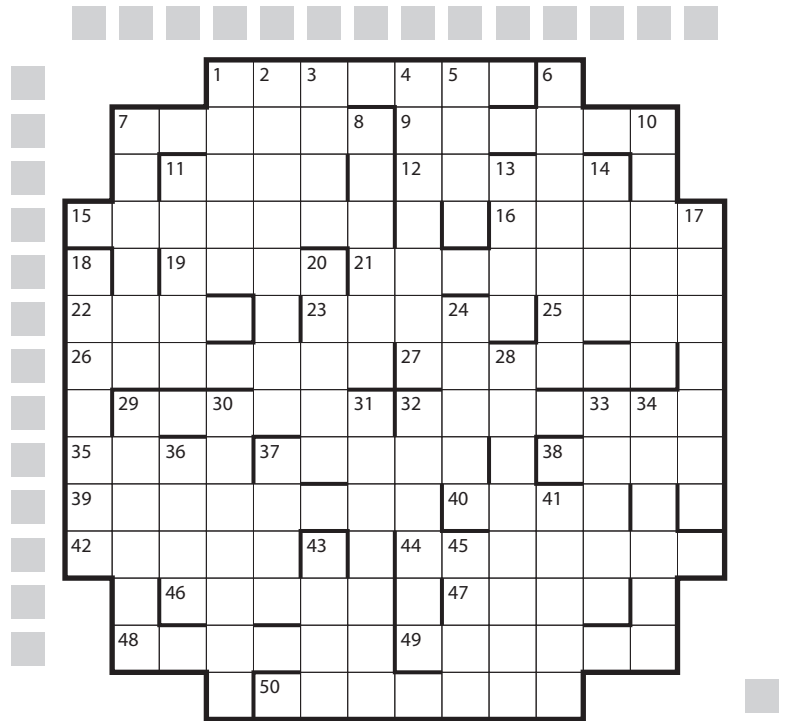
# LOVE LETTERS

by Mark Halpin

*Who will send letters? Impassioned lovers (6)*

In *Passion*, lovers send many letters. Anyone wishing to complete this puzzle will need to do the same.

Fosca's feelings for Giorgio might fairly be described as "unchecked." In crosswordese, "unchecked" describes any letter in an answer word that is not also used in a crossing answer. Once the grid is filled, send one unchecked letter from each row and column horizontally or vertically into a shaded square. No individual letter is used more than once. When finished, the phrases formed will also prove apt descriptions of Fosca's feelings, as well as descriptions of the letters being sent.



## ACROSS

- 1 It's a man's crumbling? Just the opposite (7)
- 7 Noted architect taking on Ron to draft (6, 2 wds)
- 9 Try again with more heart, essentially (6)
- 11 Surround grid with relocated letters (4)
- 12 Willow is more optimistic almost from the start (5)
- 15 Bats are flying side by side (7)
- 16 Masters party; send a buggy (5)
- 19 Travel between field and river (4)
- 21 Plateau borders hardly fit for cultivation (8)
- 22 Both men and women dealt with problems, avoiding pressure (4)
- 23 Government security restricted unruly teen (5)
- 25 Early critics tore into actress playing Elizabeth (4)
- 26 Ignored? Not in nude resort (7)
- 27 Plucky oil magnate trading in energy for small state (6)
- 29 Total credit charge (6)
- 32 Whine about hotel leaflet (7)
- 35 Mug during grand opera (4)
- 37 Recall of components to cause suffering from scarcity (5)
- 38 Very dark hue, ultimately oddly brown (4)
- 39 Portentous-sounding pair of orphans burying decapitated vampire (8)
- 40 Dessert's dreamy; agree to seconds, therefore (4)
- 42 Queen oversaw empire's borders (5)
- 44 Virtuoso, left tense inside, set off (7)
- 46 Giant anti-tank division (5)
- 47 Land smothered in polluted air (4)
- 48 Resist faceless lawman and heartless deputies (6)
- 49 E.g., a veterinarian an obedient dog attended (6)
- 50 Don't start meandering freely -- that's a real annoyance (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Song and dance that is featured in retro records (5)
- 2 A lot of info spread about battery ... excellent! (8)
- 3 Means of support articulated first to last (4)
- 4 Rum or gin in evening routine? (7)
- 5 We cleared out of most recent home (4)
- 6 Introducing a cast center stage (7)
- 7 Tease toff twirling hair decoration (6)
- 8 Fringe elements done away with, vendetta criminal is cleared (6)
- 10 Lots not using intelligence, in fact (6)
- 11 Novel genre: "Juvenile" (5)
- 13 Key passage in speech (4)
- 14 Bear mauled onetime Broadway "Annie" (4)
- 17 Sow leaping around sty becomes harder to grasp (7)
- 18 Mötley Crüe admitting trouble in country (7)
- 20 Crete's besieged, not flattened (5)
- 24 Band leader nixed worthless material (5)
- 28 Like resistance toward change in retail organization (8)
- 29 Mahi-mahi almost ran into hammerhead (6)
- 30 In recession, shirt mender's sales slip (7)
- 31 I enter arrangement involving a novice worker (7)
- 32 Dad playing harp with signature flourish (6)
- 33 It's sailing about! (5, *hyph*)
- 34 Thief to adjust gear while climbing (6)
- 36 Harshly criticize bigot's last gasp (4)
- 37 Use reconstituted tapioca primarily as ingredient in some puddings (4)
- 41 Gorge like a seabird? (5)
- 43 Save torpedoed vessel (4)
- 45 Staff sign contract, somewhat divided (4)

If you're new to cryptic crosswords and would like tips for solving clues, please contact the constructor at [markhalpin3@gmail.com](mailto:markhalpin3@gmail.com).