

HERD BOY AND WEAVER GIRL SOLUTION – WEDDING DRESSES

The solved grid is shown below, with clue explanations given. The letters sent between Herd Boy and Weaver Girl's clues are unique A-M. The first letters of Herd Boy's affected clues and Weaver Girl's affected clues, in A-M order, spell, respectively, ERASE ELEVEN CO / LUMNS IN MIDDLE. Deleting the contents of all but the exterior columns of the grids leaves the first and last letters of 14 3-letter words; these words are clued by the 14 magpie fragments. Middle letters of those new words, reading down the grid, spell the answer WEDDING DRESSES.

T	R	U	S	T	E	D	I	N	L	E	N	O		T	W	O	PAIR
H	O	O	P	E	N	O	D	A	I	K	O	N		H	E	N	LAYER
E	B	B	I	N	G	V	E	L	V	E	T	H		E	D	H	ICELANDIC
I	R	O	T	S	L	E	D	H	I	N	C	A		I	D	A	LUPINO
D	O	E	S	E	S	T	R	A	D	A	H	N		D	I	N	NOISE
E	Y	S	U	C	H	A	A	M	I	C	E	D		E	N	D	TAIL
A	S	T	O	R	E	I	M	B	U	R	S	E		A	G	E	RIPEN
O	N	E	D	O	L	L	A	R	F	E	T	A		O	D	A	ROOM
U	S	E	F	U	L	J	I	A	N	S	R	N		U	R	N	VASE
N	F	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	C	H	I	T		N	E	T	TRAP
S	W	A	B	O	G	I	F	T	R	O	B	H		S	S	H	STIFLE
U	P	E	N	N	O	N	P	R	E	V	U	E		U	S	E	EMPLOY
R	I	F	E	S	T	T	H	I	D	E	T	M		R	E	M	CYCLE
E	C	A	R	P	O	S	T	P	O	N	E	S		E	S	S	CURVE

Clue Explanations

anagram*; "homophone"; ~~removed element~~; [Herd Boy or Weaver Girl adjustment]

Across: 1. DIET RUNTS*; 7. ONE L reversed; 10. ~~PLAYER~~ ONE*; 11. A KIND O(-f)*; 13. ~~thirst~~ fled to PUB = B in BINGE*; 14. (Manic eland I caged), DEVOLVED* -ODD + T; 15. [lugging] "south leasing extra delivery" initials; 16. [CAIN]*; 18. "does"; 19. [argon] = AR rev. in DATES*; 21. CHUMS* - M (Marvin [early]); 23. A(MICE)D; 24. ~~Retail~~, A+STO; 26. ME BUSTER*; 27. ~~foul-up in orbit~~, DRONE ALL* around O; 29. Lucy ~~el~~enched, ATE+F rev.; 32. [handy], SULFU* with E; 33. [ANIS]*; 35. ~~canvases~~, NA+TI(O)NS; 38. [money's], C+HIT; 39. SWA(P/B); 40. [soldiers], GI+FT; 41. [flag], PE(NN)ON; 42. ~~incur veto~~, VEEP* with R and U; 43. [radical], TIRES* with F; 44. ~~strapped~~, "hied"; 45. [zoom], RACE rev.; 46. ~~trip enables~~, STEPSON* with PO

Down: 1. "tissue... and" initials; 2. ~~wine is ending~~, SORRY (-j)OB*; 3. [skewers], S+PITS; 4. [junction], hasTENS Extreme; 5. DEVIATIONS JOLT*; 6. [carded], (-a)IDED; 7. [stores], LI[VI]D; 8. ~~temp~~loyally, NOT[CH]ES; 9. [faulty], HERE AND NOW* - WERE; 10. ~~repaired~~, (-h)OBOES; 12. [meat], AL+HAM+BRA; 17. [halving], NA+CRE; 20. double definition; 22. [copper], C[RO(-e)]U + TONS; 23. Al(-r)MAN*; 25. TEENA(-ge); 28. oNeS + F + W' + (-s)PIC(-y); 30. [tub], TRI(BUT*)ES; 31. [airs], A(rden)T around N + HEMS; 32. [borders], U(RUNS*)E; 34. [drive], SHO(V)E; 36. [raising], REB(N)A rev.; 37. ~~broom~~ and, ST+RIP; 38. [tenet], DECOR*; 40. [orally], "goat + eww"