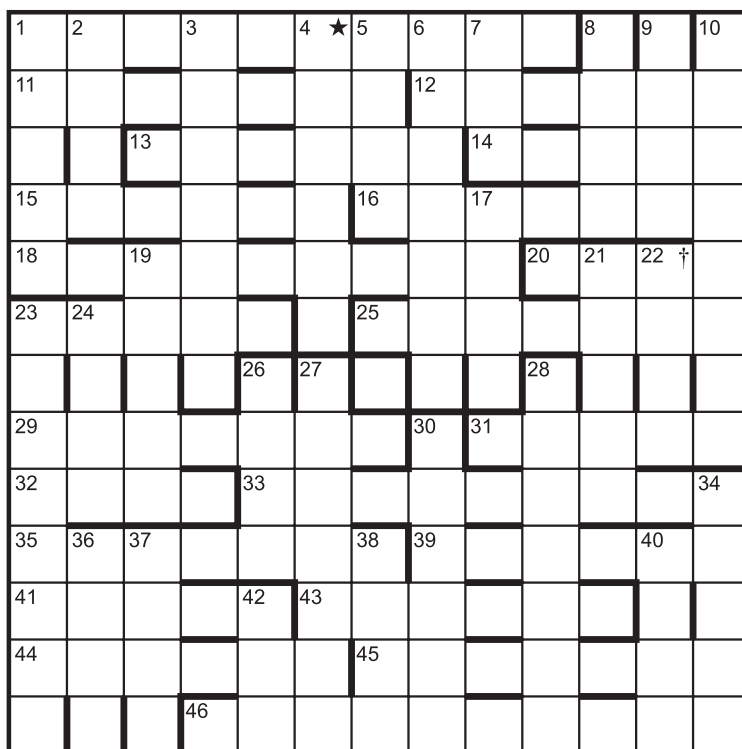


The Listener Crossword No 4878 Romantic Piece by Pandiculator

Senders of the first three correct entries drawn will receive *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* or may choose from a selection of other books (see below). Send your entry with contact details completed to: Listener Crossword 4878, 19 Fairfax Drive, Pontefract, WF8 1NU, to arrive by August 7.

Prize options and more at listenercrossword.com

More information about Chambers books can be found at chambers.co.uk

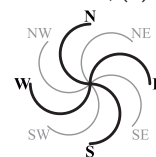


Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Phone/email.....

Each clue needs a word removed to enable solving. The words' initials identify (i) a piece for "X"; (ii) which part of a note to X solvers must use; and (iii) what to ignore in a related note. Using the compass shown, convert (ii) to steps of up to three cells, forming a path that starts at † and re-enters the grid on the opposite side whenever a grid edge is met. Letters in each *previously unvisited* cell in the path spell an instruction and its starting point. Follow the instruction and fill the central cell to complete a message indicating two entries that must be highlighted. To avoid doubts, the direction of the *n*th step (of both paths, one after the other) is cardinal *only* if the length of the *n*th clue's extra word is even. *The Chambers Dictionary* (2016) is the primary reference.



Across

- 1 Head for first of sex-linked scented oils (10)
- 11 Key one from the smaller pile (7, two words)
- 12 Ivy League uni shuns celebrated period (6)
- 13 Solicitors face struggle to yield charges (6)
- 14 FA reportedly flog trophy (5)
- 15 Old helium plant's gone bust after export (6)
- 16 French imam lets boxes and smokes there (7)
- 18 Almost 36 made to research exotic worm (9)
- 20 Cast takes photo (4)
- 23 Youngster or an older seabird (5)
- 25 Erstwhile republic to establish sanctions over state aid primarily (7)
- 29 Good input ratios relaxed farm officer (7)
- 31 Russian author's attempt to Xerox file rebounded (5)
- 32 Zoe's characters each step back after Queen Vic support (4)
- 33 Cancel brief alert about clothing recipient (9)
- 35 Rehydrated skin pertly restored area (7)
- 39 Think drug inspector joins revolutionary (6)
- 41 Fishes held in case Asian frog's rejected (5)
- 43 Trolls serially hold broadcast (6, two words)
- 44 Diminutive girl to catch insect with knot (6)
- 45 Green conservation organisation protects rolling valley (7)
- 46 Not certain rude Nabokov novel's bad (10)
- 4 Drones in the country drive insects frantic (6)
- 5 Iron mine consumes island, a small one (4)
- 6 Her crude image is radiant Welsh flower (7)
- 7 Sound of alarm regularly stirs elder's kin (3)
- 8 Element in new age therapy (4)
- 9 Corrected partly misconstrued letter (4)
- 10 Poor start invites trouble in narrow lock (8)
- 17 End of Northern Territory motorway (4)
- 19 Child earns fiver under Chicago railroad (5)
- 21 Discounted stone fruit gets cored for young sheep (5)
- 22 Endless period of purposefully reduced productivity leads to capital insecurity (4)
- 23 Italian cyclist bluff on international news (8)
- 24 Party men attack guy out of university (4)
- 26 Guy in a lather entering Anthony's digs? (4)
- 27 Uncovered Coleridge's lost couplet that's more divine (7)
- 28 Principally regarding mouth's surrounding, hardened bits of snout too? (7)
- 30 Attempted rocky edges of Everest (Sagarmatha) and Eiger? (6)
- 34 Pandiculator's overcome by aim to make riddle faultless, unusually (5)
- 36 Short cipher, it's added last over horn part (4)
- 37 Attempts to purge carp for pond-dwellers (4)
- 38 Spear losing tip in Perth's thicket once (4)
- 40 Merry cry emotively raised in voice-over (4)
- 42 Letter reading function (3)

Down

- 1 Braid arched window, hiding third trellis (5)
- 2 Endlessly cycling test card (4)
- 3 Rising Geneva nabob invested in aforementioned strange situations (7)