

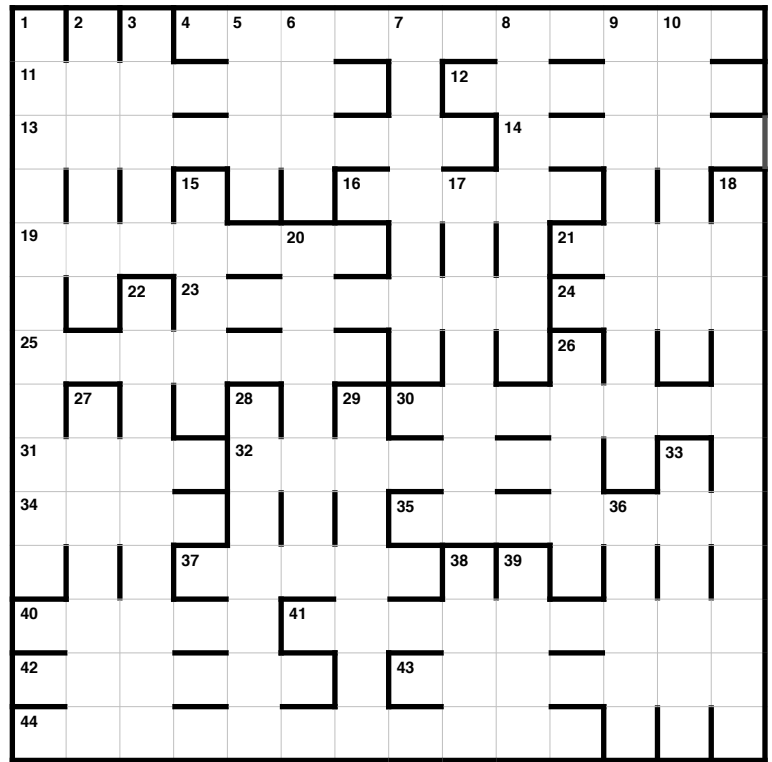
# Mother's Day

by Negroni

This cryptic accomplishes something rare: takes cryptic answers and creates new empty, unused *grid squares*. First letters of puzzle answers locate every white square between "cancel lines" / blocks (coarser lines—ones that stop entries). *Grid borders don't count as blocks*.

Letters indicate how many *squares* before the next block, as follows: A/B/C = 1, D/E/F = 2 ... Y/Z = 9). In this way, the 22 *Across* answers, in order, create a new offspring grid, first setting the across blocks (*vertical lines*), and, upon reaching the end of the grid, continuing from the beginning and setting the down blocks (*horizontal lines*). The shape is square just like its mother, and crossword symmetry will determine the size. It's the miracle of birth, and it's *40 Across!*

The *Nurture* clues signify this offspring puzzle's environment and their answers fill squares in the offspring grid. They're in no particular order, so you'll need to determine where the answers fit in the grid. Nature plays a part in development as well. The *Nature* clues for the offspring puzzle are built into the mother puzzle's DNA. In 12 of the *Across* clues and in 12 of the *Down* clues, an A, T, G, or C needs to turn into a different letter before solving. In addition, the environment itself can effect the expression of genes. In all 10 *Nurture* clues, a letter must change to an A, T, G, or C before solving. The resultant letters from the *Across* and *Down* clues, and the original letters from the *Nurture* clues, together tell you exactly where to find clues to the *Nature* answers that will complete the offspring puzzle. When completed with the correct letter in its center square, the now grown up offspring puzzle will reveal an unclued central across entry that it is carrying. One answer in each grid is obscure.



## Across

- 4 First cat from down in England returns with pressing focus and desire (11)
- 11 Cocaine in pieces of enormous size (7)
- 12 With magical properties, my cage never closes (6)
- 13 Small manhood cover included in *Strip Hour* (9)
- 14 Labyrinth hiding a staple crop (5)
- 16 Lynne Kelley left, hugging Mr. Rogers (5)
- 19 Living out in front, racing off (7)
- 21 Centers of scar turning blue inside (4)
- 23 Bolt without washer grips gutless monsters (7)
- 24 Disarm train in Montana (4)
- 25 Student of strange lochs (a couple of crises) (7)
- 30 Gay (out) heads of fancy nightclub imbibing fancy drink (7)
- 31 Some friars entertain bum (4)
- 32 Accept energy's falling; be charged (7)
- 34 Trademark #9 for producer of Ice Tube tracks (1-3)
- 35 Muscle tone at first seen in butt characteristics (7)
- 37 Check out a bat of Daltry online (3 2)
- 40 See *Instructions* (1 4)
- 41 China magi destroyed city in Thailand (6 3)
- 42 India entertained by cany floss relic (6)
- 43 Release fatter tea drink with milk, feeding bunny, essentially (7)
- 44 Inform 500 about Cate after recording almost passed over (3 8)

## Down

- 1 California prison destroyed false mottos (6 5)
- 2 Batter's claiming copyright for combs (6)
- 3 Mat held by tribe in Guinea (5)
- 5 Indiana deporting last of cap gun worshippers from Peru (4)
- 6 Cheerfully sing little tune, at first (4)
- 7 Meantime, I'm following pug underground (7)
- 8 "My turn wearing that top," squealed flipping athlete using a bat? (7)
- 9 Quiet Fanny uncovered better protocol (9)
- 10 Large island, 26th in a series, is moving North (7)
- 15 Tool for gutting bold poker player in audition (5)
- 17 Back off unnecessary pointers (7)
- 18 Extraordinary nations sigh mischievously (11)
- 20 Confusing mirage approaching club is visual symbolism (7)
- 22 Relativity expert held by Morphy [sic] is cool (9)
- 26 Returning coffee chain's priced highly (5)
- 27 Resistance Magazine breaking low, short cartoon character (2 5)
- 28 Rang German City College (7)
- 29 Gore salmon with tip of lance and intoxicating substance (7)
- 33 Variety in drop of silver paint (6)
- 36 Symbol of pause / start is forgetting month in bouts of unconsciousness (5)

38 Depressing, gripping, tight, and smooth, in a way (4)

39 Tingle time, formerly (4)

## Nurture

Devices that fake pictures of bears losing focus

"Milady, mold is found around briny expanses"

Live: pitching star returns

Loudly devour soup

"Fixed charge from iron" - tenter in Minnesota

Eco-friendly motorhome's a constant cramp

Self-righteous dandy hovering near back

Ailment affecting the ability to pee in cup in under half time

Next chuckle is large and bold, from the gut

Quietly in rink, I pause smoking drug

## Nature

To be determined