

Guest Puzzle #70 – February 2018 "Curtain Call"
(by Darreby Ambler)

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to nine letters, five are capitalized, one is a foreign word, and one is an abbreviation) then enter them in a 12 x 12 grid (see below) one after another, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue in the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Nine across words and nine down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those eighteen letters, take in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a message related to the title of the puzzle. Hidden in the puzzle is the subject of all this fuss.

Across

1. Sound advertising tool
2. Western Ireland swaps back with England – strange!
3. Pierce through the ear for jewelry
4. Fortune telling aid requires redhead inside
5. American woman's house of horror
6. Reagan co-star – man in command post
7. Part of expansive erotic curve
8. Calm guy beginning to like everyone
9. Boring in ground, I ran back
10. Everlasting element?
11. Main character in the role
12. Ring the bell of first dog
13. Sound kills Reisman's unwashed gang
14. Small barrel's a help to surfboarders
15. Make repairing even
16. Impose double jeopardy on Spanish king kidnapping American president
17. Short Middle-Earth king hiding in old urinals
18. No clear arrangement for an organ
19. Young figures for the ages
20. Evened score overwhelms regret
21. Lover (destroyed) roared
22. Some of the best part of Ancient Greece
23. Deliberately incorporating small book collection
24. Half a train designer
25. Pawn Belgian of French furniture
26. Six hundred English sins
27. Second edition is sure riddled with error
28. Royalty entered while I ate
29. Even restful, I'm a case
30. At last, almost everyone is supported by him
31. Greek turncoat is free

Down

1. Day for Napoleon Bonaparte's marshal to take a trip
2. Good ear, in part, for English theater
3. Music for Musketeers?
4. Guy hiding trace of DNA at beginning of recreational sex
5. Downgrading start of meal causes emergency
6. Use rare bananas for graphite removal
7. Reinforce layer about cardinal
8. Vegetable of a somewhat acceptable god
9. Abbreviated stream of income for Henri IV, say
10. Warning: Al Gore finally right
11. Freethinker edits puzzle
12. Found in lost envelope east of Frankfurt
13. User of lithium in copper
14. Bum never opened junk food
15. Bad serve, man! Drink here and forget about it
16. Iridescent saucer – no cracks
17. Chairman cuddles Shirley MacLaine character
18. Concrete family-friendly retreat
19. Grain found in western drug lubrication
20. Mixed rap on part of stage
21. Material for smoking jacket
22. Returns derived from trimmed off split-ends
23. Sailor wallows in filthy living
24. Even I drop the lavish love
25. Artist led a life on the inside
26. Taking caviar regularly produces music
27. Capture views on tape
28. Sidecar tangled up in roots

