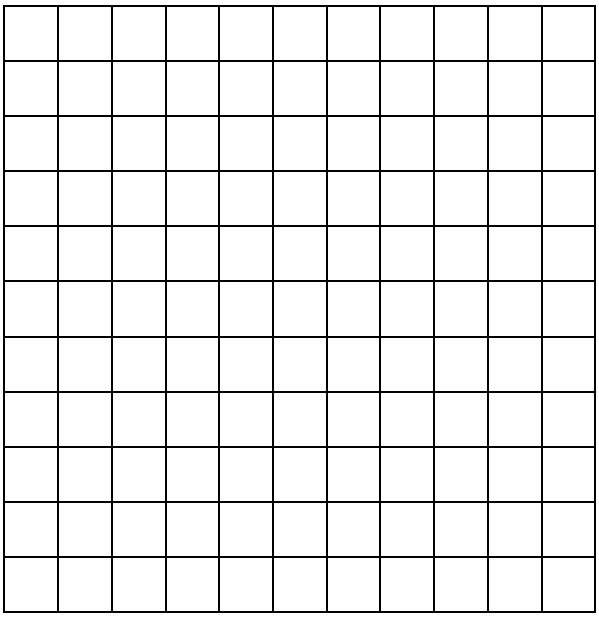
Puzzle #197 — October, 2017 "Zzz"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eleven letters, and five are capitalized) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Eight across words and eight down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those sixteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a three-word phrase related to the mystery entries. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Bluff of epic madness in cost
3. Composer King embracing Henry
4. Solid ledge to hold loaf
5. Fruit time
6. Love the sound of a portal
7. Fiber of billowing sails
8. French must replace Middle English in the U.S., Kenya, etc.
9. Speak with Charlie to take May's place and separate
10. Protagonist resting in east arbor
11. Awkwardly seat about ten in steamboat structure
12. Photographer Adams polished a lens
13. Trendy part of thermodynamics
14. Mark's safety vehicle
15. Flood loses pressure in gorge
16. A shelter in Yemeni seaport
17. Sacred, extra leafy ilex
18. Ealing in transition becomes warm and friendly
19. Burden we pay for
20. Solitary Nelly is troubled about love
21. Get rid of contents of closet
22. Parcel out sound aplenty
23. Dumb Denise lacks a bit of intelligence
24. Nothing in Cadiz worked as a sky path
25. *Mystery entry*

Down

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Compact disc one alto ruined
3. His French instrument is welcome
4. Child taken in by twin of a nobleman
5. Nobleman taken in by yearling
6. Sticky stuff produced by southern fruit
7. Star network involving a lake
8. The least bit of expression upset Al's belly
9. Grass offensively conceals backing of pit
10. Jackass and deer losing minutes to get a bit of grain
11. Author of *Deer Earth*
12. Often there around October, for instance
13. Carbon removed from basic kind of tire
14. Fixed having mark removed and finished
15. Our rap is disrupted in commotion
16. Runner holding a leaflet
17. Essays of numberless threesomes
18. Present age of daughter consumed by trifle
19. Get to make haste without power
20. In sorry decease there isn't a split
21. Confederate gains energy in passageway
22. Acme of false claim with illiterate signature
23. *Mystery entry*