



Magic Rings | a cryptic puzzle by Emily Cox & Henry Rathvon

Whenever the letter O occurs in an answer, it acts magically on that word. One kind of ring makes an answer shrink or grow by one letter into a new word (as WORN could become WON or SWORN in the grid); another ring changes an answer into its homophone (as CORD could become CHORD or CORED); and the third, most powerful ring transforms an answer into an anagram (as ATOM could become MOAT). Two grid answers crossing on a ring will undergo the same spell. Answer lengths are withheld to make discovery of the rings more cryptic.

Across

- 1 Railroad flanked by fuel pen
 6 Check bit of sour cream
 10 For French wine, good showing
 11 Yours truly, with Howard and Harris, got things smoothed out
 12 Pieces placed evenly in star Louvre collection
 13 Some digital images misconstrued baptism
 14 Southern Rwandan people passing pipe down (2 wds.)
 16 Heavy coat altered result
 17 Hype about a General Electric clip-on gadget
 19 Mr. Clean spread around bagel supply in a bakery
 21 Concerning cipher in Latin correspondence
 24 Drills black underground deposits
 26 Anger church with new role
 29 Certain butterflies perched next to yours
 30 Article deconstructed musical performance
 31 Homer gripped by lower digit pang
 32 Subject before flick
 33 Device for spraying a rug in convertible (2 wds.)
 34 Longtime Cuban leader tossed right out
 35 Hear about old sad story
 5 Number one trend's backing treason
 6 Exercise place is returning (Hyph.)
 7 Audition for a part, mostly prepared
 8 Bereft child playing on harp
 9 Naked ape originated ordinary language
 14 Streets having corroded conditions
 15 Friends hosting New England discussion groups
 18 Hats left in arbors
 19 Agreement Mongol ruler followed verbally
 20 Blow up wrong general
 22 German car company opening outside of school
 23 Strapping underwear with Big Apple initials
 24 Laser tag involving sleeping giant?
 25 Dole out speech after the opening
 27 Admitted everything wasn't square?
 28 Tavern fixture? Very true

Down

- 1 Comfort victim of a scam in speech
 2 Push large garden tool
 3 Keep tabs on love poetry, Shakespeare's last
 4 Country song the man transposed

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