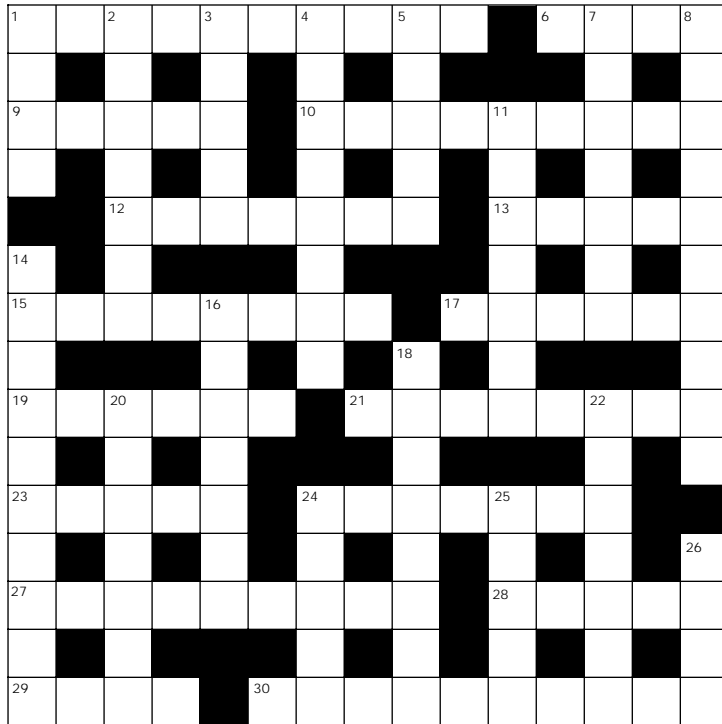


Cryptic Crossword

By Brit Ray



*The nights grow long, our blood runs cold,
and ancient fears assail us
November has a dying flame,
and cryptic thoughts impale us.*

Many of the clues or answers in this puzzle suggest nocturnal themes and creatures. Sharpen your talons on these samples.

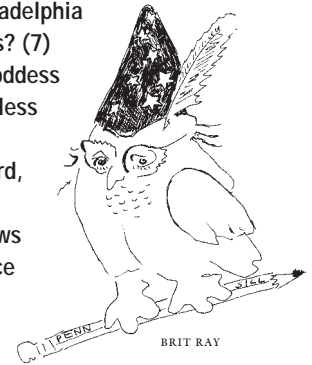
1. Pun: Members of Philadelphia rock band are night owls? (7)

Hooters. 2. Container: Goddess of Wisdom! Mia has endless nerve (7) *Minerva*. 3.

Homophone: Dreadful bird, reportedly (4) *Foul*. 4.

Anagram: "Disguise shows lines for wise appearance (10) *Owlshness*.

Remember, the first or last part of the clue is a literal definition. So put on your wizard's cap, curl up by the fire, and romance this puzzle. To wit to woo! **Answer will appear next month. Answer to last month's puzzle appears on page 61.**



ACROSS

1. Might snare disturbed reveries (10)
6. Seems to absorb sound in this place (4)
9. Dine around United Nations in the morning (3,2)
10. Badly ruin peace for pleasure-seeker (9)
12. Evil spirit in baby bear appears before us (7)
13. No enlightenment from book deprivation (5)
15. Absolute security provided by detective? (8)
17. Hundred tales retold in tower (6)
19. Nimrod entwines trap for rat (6)
21. Live NPR noise sorted out (2, 6)
23. Oven a riot of blazing stars (5)
24. Find job, rot hellishly in house of ill repute (7)
27. Armstrong makes famous 1969 headline (3,2,4)
28. Courage or temerity? (5)
29. Unusual and not done (4)
30. Purportedly beautiful Italian ghoulish (without any suggestion of heart) destroyed, is back as Hungarian actor (4,6)

DOWN

1. Order sent home (4)
2. Real genie un-leashed (7)
3. Subject of optic disturbance (5)
4. Penn vampire expert can purportedly reverse time (8)
5. Stories mixed with spice (5)
7. The Spanish agent in disguise is stylish (7)
8. A little German introduces music of the night (4,6)
11. Shadows cause vague sense of suspicion (7)
14. Star gazer could be moon starrer (10)
16. Smash rental by northern light (7)
18. One moans in horrid wakefulness (8)
20. Soothsayer is more godlike (7)
22. See no real change in ancient Italian city (7)
24. Destroyed by lack of money (5)
25. Back University's first Indian (5)
26. Half for actress Moore (4)